

THE TIMES TOMORROW

If music... Bernard Levin suffers assault at the hands of Anton Webern - and hits back.

Be the food... Eat, drink - and have a beautiful table. Sir Roy Strong considers the epergne and other adornments.

Of love... Sir John Summerson reflects on the architecture of the Thirties and wonders why some people love it so much.

Play on... Why London is swinging again.

Give me... The beauty of California and the romance of Hawaii.

Excess... Attempts to outlaw video nasties are welcome, but parliamentarians should beware of going too far.

Lawson is foiled on power price

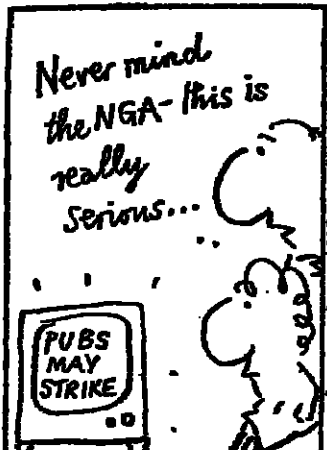
Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has again failed to secure a 3 per cent rise in the price of electricity. The Cabinet decided not to take legal powers to direct the Electricity Council to increase prices, but a 2 per cent rise is likely.

Pound rises

Sterling rose to 1.4225 against the dollar, up 53 points, as West Germany's central bank again intervened heavily on foreign exchange markets.

Nanny demand

The prosecution at the Italian trial of the Scottish nanny, Carol Compton, demanded a seven-year jail term for arson and attempted murder.



Time please

Managers employed by a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary will strike today and shut 280 pubs in the North. The action could spread over Christmas and New Year.

Hard to swallow

Mr Edwin Meece, the White House counsellor, has caused a political storm by making derogatory remarks about America's hungry.

£170m bid

Hanson Trust last night launched a £170m cash takeover bid for London Electricity, Britain's sole maker of flexible house bricks.

Letters: On Antarctica, from Mr Julian Amery, MP; nuclear winter, from Dr Norman Myers, and Professor Sir Frederick Warner; arts subsidies, from Mr Robert Jackson, MP.

Features, pages 12-14: Conveyancing why the solicitors must put their house in order. Roger Boyes describes Lech Walesa's plans to influence Poland's future.

Obituary, page 16: Lord Amulree. Dr Stanley Clotworthy. Mr Theodore Crombie.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Law Report. Includes sub-sections like Letters, Motoring, Obituary, Parliament, Sale Rooms, Sport, TV & Radio, Weather, Wills.

Blocking of budget rebate sharpens conflict with EEC

By Ian Murray in Strasbourg and Anthony Bevins in London

To the impotent fury of all British Euro-MPs, the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday voted stolidly to block payment of rebates due to Britain and West Germany.

British MEPs reacted angrily. "The Parliament has shown a staggering display of political insensitivity and discrimination", Mr Neil Balfour told the assembly.

The Conservative group had gone into the session trying hard to be conciliatory. Most members abstained when Mrs Castle's resolution to reject the entire budget was put.

In London Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, sharpened the threat that Britain might withhold payments from the Community if the £457m rebate was not paid by the end of March.

That support was being withdrawn "with total justification and real anger", Mr Balfour, the Conservative spokesman on budgetary affairs, has been criticized in the past for his over-conciliatory approach.

When the vote to freeze the British money was taken, however, Conservatives and Labour members voted together, with four Danes, three French and one West German, to honour the promise to pay.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons, in reply to a challenge from Mr Neil Kinnock, that she had been "greatly disappointed" by the European Parliament vote earlier in the day to block the repayment.

Not to be outdone in the invective, Mrs Barbara Castle, the leader of the Labour group, described the Parliament's vote as "petty and hypocritical".

An attempt by the Conservatives to reject the entire budget failed by 241 votes to 111. In consequence, the group voted in protest against every other part of the budget.

The rebate due to Britain, and the £91m for West Germany, were agreed during the Stuttgart summit last June as net payments in recognition of the fact that both countries were paying more than their proper share of the cost of running the Community.

"I am quite hopeful that in the end it is not a bad day's work", he said. "It may tend to speed up the decision - which we have been seeking for so long."

This stung Mrs Castle to complain that the Conservatives were voting against money which was earmarked to help create jobs in Britain.

NGA decides to halt mass pickets

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided last night that there will be no return to industrial action in the six-month-old dispute with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger Group newspapers and no more mass picketing of the plant at Warrington, Cheshire.

It also suggests that the union has been given private assurances of support by powerful unions such as the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees.

Conveyance outlet for banks

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Banks and building societies will be able to offer conveyancing services in competition with solicitors' firms under government legislation to be introduced in the Commons today by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General.

The Cabinet, therefore, while agreeing to liberalize the conveyancing market, has decided to introduce measures which are far more limited in scope than those in Mr Austin Mitchell's Buyers Bill.

The NGA leaders also agreed yesterday to defer any decision about going back to the High Court to seek a judge's order to free the union's £10m from the control of the sequestrators who were put in to seize £675,000 in fines for contempt of court.

But the union will go into court on Monday to seek a variation of the order so as to release some of the union's funds for friendly society benefits.

The Government will oppose Mr Mitchell's Bill, which it regards as unsatisfactory, and it appeared last night that Conservative MPs would be sufficiently satisfied with the promise of action to be dissuaded from backing it.

It condemned the decision of the TUC General Council to "sell us down the river" and agreed unanimously to continue the campaign for a closed shop and reinstatement of the dismissed "Stockport six".

But the Law Lords said that if the NUJ failed to take the necessary steps to abide by the injunctions within seven days its petition would be dismissed and it would be in contempt of court.

The NGA will be consulting "its friends and supporters in the movement" and seeking to mobilize unions in a campaign to continue the dispute and change the TUC's policy on backing for unions that find themselves in direct conflict with the employment legislation.

Yesterday's decision marks a new departure in the NGA's campaign. It suggests that the union will continue action within the labour movement to undermine the policy of Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, that the TUC should not flout the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts.

Three miners trapped by tons of rock

By Alan Hamilton

Rescuers made contact last night with three men trapped a quarter of a mile underground at Sherwood colliery, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, after hundreds of tons of rock collapsed. All three men were safe and well.

Two rescue teams continued working to reach the men. A dozen workmates of the trapped miners were helping.

Clash of Soviet titans draws near



Kasparov in play. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

The men were in a tunnel 16ft high and 10ft wide constructing an access road for a new coal face at the colliery when the rock fell.

One rescue team was using picks, shovels and even bare hands and the other had cutting gear called a mechanical mole, which punches 6in wide holes.

Kasparov, born 20 years ago with the name of Weinstein in the Soviet "deep south" republic of Azerbaijan, used only draw his next and eleventh game with the ailing Viktor Korchnoi at the Great Eastern Hotel in London to wipe the mercurial defector from the board.

A ventilation tube runs into the tunnel and National Coal Board experts said air was getting through.

Korchnoi, with a reputation for fighting back from the tightest of corners, has left his life-saving rally perilously late.

Victory for Kasparov will delight the Soviet chess establishment, which has wished upon Korchnoi the status of an unperson since he decamped to Switzerland in 1976.

The trapped men are Mr Ian Johnson, aged 38, married with a son, of Southy Close, Forest Town, Mansfield; Mr Peter Williams, aged 42, married with two children, of Sycamore Road, Mansfield Woodhouse; and Mr Peter Watts, aged 33, married with three children, of Abbots Croft, Mansfield.

If youth triumphs over experience in today's vital game, Kasparov will next meet the victor of the other semifinal being played concurrently. His opponent seems certain to be the veteran Russian international grandmaster Vasily Smyslov, who last took the world title in 1957 and has staged a remarkable comeback at the age of 62.

The betting on that outcome is firmly in favour of Kasparov as the man to meet the reigning Soviet world champion, Anatoly Karpov, who has twice beaten off challenges from Korchnoi for his crown. There the odds become less certain.



All clear: A London policeman inspects a briefcase blown open by bomb experts outside the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, yesterday. There was traffic chaos after the object was spotted and the area cleared.

Why Nato might use bomb first

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

General Bernard Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, has given a warning that Nato would be forced to escalate "fairly quickly" to the first use of nuclear weapons in the event of a large-scale attack by Soviet conventional forces in Europe.

Although he did not specify how soon after such an attack he would have to ask Nato leaders to authorize the release of nuclear weapons, he emphasized that the alliance did not have adequate sustainability, manpower, ammunition and prepositioned reserves to contain a Soviet conventional attack "except for a very short time".

General Rogers, who has been Nato's commander since 1979, is in the United States to propagate what has now become a well-worn theme of his - the need for the 16-nation alliance to increase its defence spending, particularly on building up its conventional forces.

An improvement in Nato's conventional capacity would enhance the alliance's deterrence capability and raise the nuclear threshold, he told a group of foreign journalists. But it would inevitably involve some sacrifices - about \$11 (£7.85) a year for every man, woman and child living in Nato countries.

"The people have to be convinced that there is a threat to their freedom and have to be willing to make this additional sacrifice," he declared.

General Rogers went out of his way to assure Europeans that the new Pershing and cruise missiles now being deployed in West Germany, Britain and Italy could not cause a nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.

He said the weapons would not even become nuclear until he received a special code from the US President and that code had been dialled into the warhead.

The only way he could obtain that code would be to go through the normal three-part release procedures laid down by Nato headquarters as well as in each of the 16 capitals with an early warning message saying that it might be necessary to use nuclear weapons.

This would be followed by a warning message containing information about possible targets and specifying the countries from which Nato's short and medium-range missiles would be launched.

Finally there would have to be a release message which would provide him with the codes for the warheads on the various types of weapons to be used in a nuclear strike.

"Until I get those codes I don't have a nuclear weapon," he explained. "I've got a warhead that is capable of becoming a nuclear warhead, but we must use the codes to enable it to be that."

US warship blasts Lebanese militias

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Less than an hour after the US marines in Beirut had come under fierce attack by mortars and heavy artillery yesterday evening, the battleship New Jersey began to bombard Shia Muslim and Druze militia positions in the hills around the base.

Qamar. They took hundreds of civilians and their would-be militia protectors of the Phalange to the safety of Israeli lines across the Awali river.

It was the second barrage by the vessel in 36 hours. The New Jersey fired only its 5-in artillery, but the guns and shell explosions could be heard across Beirut as shock waves rumbled over the city.

The Phalangists - who have been trapped in the town by the Druze since last September's mountain civil war - were later taken to Sidon. Last night, the Phalangist radio was claiming that the Christian militia were on board the French helicopter carrier Jeanne d'Arc, which was steaming northwards towards Beirut, escorted by Israeli gunboats.

There had been serious fighting round the Marine compound at the airport during the day when Lebanese troops and Shia Muslim guerrillas had fought artillery battles not far from the British Army headquarters in the suburb of Hadeith. At least one shell landed scarcely 50 yards from the British base.

Whether or not this report was true, the Phalangists, who more than any other Lebanese militia have demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, will now have to live with the fact that they needed a foreign army to rescue them from their Druze fellow-countrymen.

Earlier a French soldier was killed by artillery fire probably directed from the Chouf mountains.

The drama of the evacuation from the Chouf mountains, in which several hundred Israeli armoured vehicles were involved, tended to obscure the far graver events being discussed in Damascus between Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's Middle East envoy and Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister.

Elsewhere in Lebanon yesterday, the Israelis, with tanks, armoured troop carriers and air cover, staged a mass evacuation of the Christians from Deir el-

Less than a day after the New Jersey had shelled the Syrian Army for the first time, the two men concluded their three hours of discussions during the afternoon without finding any way of ending the military confrontation between Syria and America.

Indeed, General Mustafa Tlass, the Army commander, told his troops yesterday that Syria would continue to open fire on US reconnaissance jets and the Army would "surprise

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Two ways to censor war reports

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

A call for government departments to prepare plans so that a "discretionary" system of censorship could be introduced if Britain again became involved in a war is contained in the report of a study group published yesterday.

The Port of Kings

Advertisement for Grahams 1978 Port wine, featuring a bottle and text: 'GRAHAM'S Late Bottled Vintage 1978 PORT OPORTO'.

Kidnap brothers convicted of holding couple in terror for £2m ransom

Two brothers were found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of kidnapping a young couple and holding them captive for a £2m ransom.

George Panae, aged 30, a driving instructor, of Telford Avenue, Streatham, and his brother Anastasi, aged 36, a fish shop proprietor, of Dunston Road, Battersea, both south London, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of kidnapping Mr Emmanuel Xuerab, aged 33, a wine merchant, and his wife Maria, 33, from their home at Tereyway, Lodge Road, Bromley, Kent, in January, and holding them prisoner for five days at a house in Kemble Road, Croydon.

The brothers were found guilty by the jury's unanimous verdicts after a month-long trial. Both had denied all charges.

A third member of the gang, Donald Gray, aged 27, unemployed, a former boxer, of Raleigh Gardens, Brixton, south London, who pleaded guilty and gave evidence for the Crown, also awaits sentence.

Mr and Mrs Xuerab were kidnapped as they arrived home after a shopping trip and were taken to the Croydon house



George Panae, who demanded £2m ransom

where they were held prisoner, bound, gagged and blindfolded. They were threatened with death while the gang demanded £2m in cash, gold coins and gold bars from the husband's father, Mr Anthony Xuerab, 60, a Hatton Garden diamond merchant.

The kidnappers threatened to cut off Mr Emmanuel Xuerab's fingers and send them to his ransom one by one until the £2m was paid and threatened also to cut off his head and "send it home in a box". Mrs Xuerab was also sexually assaulted by one of the kidnappers.

Mrs Xuerab was released alone with a ransom note. She remembered some details about the house's location and was

able to locate the address for police, who later stormed the house at dawn. The police had been alerted to the kidnapping and had recorded the calls to Mr Anthony Xuerab.

Mrs Xuerab had determined to do all she could to trap the gang by identifying the kidnappers.

With her bound hands she clawed at the carpet to force the fibres under her nails. Mrs Xuerab hoped that if they were eventually killed the fibres would assist forensic experts and police to trace the kidnappers. She also bit off some of her nails and left them under her mattress as further clues.

As she sat helpless and blindfolded, her husband held captive in another room, she listened to nearby church bells and guessed their distance. She also gauged the direction of trains running close to the house and managed under her blindfold to catch a glimpse of the grey curtains.

When she was released to exert more pressure for the kidnappers' demands she assessed the distance the car travelled and memorised every left and right turn. Her recollection of the details enabled Anti-Terrorist Squad men to locate the house within 12 hours.



Kidnap victims: Mr and Mrs Xuerab, who were held under threat of death (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Universities will try to curb rowdy students

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

University vice-chancellors sought to reassure Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at a private meeting this week that they would do all they could to control rowdy students on campuses but at the same time asked that ministers inform them when they were visiting their institutions.

This exchange on the subject of free speech in universities arose at the routine autumn term meeting between the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and the Minister at Sir Keith's insistence.

He is understood to be distressed by what he calls "barbarism" on the campuses, such as the recent paint-throwing at Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, at Manchester University and the violent picketing of himself at Warwick.

Manchester University was not informed officially of Mr Heseltine's visit, which took place the day after the announcement that cruise missiles had arrived on British soil, and was supposed to be an informal address to the Conservative Society.

Mr Heseltine was barracked by a large group of students who prevented him from speaking for an hour by blocking a staircase and then heckled him.

The Warwick University incident was more organized. Knowing beforehand that Sir Keith was coming, the students' union executive proposed a picket to protest at government cuts of the education service.

One in four motorists drinks and drives

By Michael Bally
Transport Editor

At least one in four motorist drinks and drives; and between the ages of 18 and 34 the proportion is as high as one in three.

That finding from extensive soundings by Harris Research in London and Nottingham, coincides with yesterday's report in *The Times* that one in four drivers tested for alcohol in a pre-Christmas exercise by Sussex police failed the test.

It will be discussed at 10.30pm today in a London Weekend Television programme, "Driving Drunk in London", which commissioned the research.

Questioned by pollsters, 37 per cent of London motorists (48 per cent of those aged between 25 and 34) admitted that they drank and drove occasionally or often. Half of those questioned thought it unlikely that they would be caught.

Road safety experts say that motorists' perception of their chance of being caught is crucial in determining whether they drink and drive. And the research suggests that this is far lower in London than in Nottingham.

Drivers in Nottingham are five times more likely to be breath-tested than in London, according to Home Office figures. Last year the Metropolitan Police carried out 3.3 tests for every 1,000 Londoners. The national average is 4.2, and the police in Nottinghamshire carried out 15.8 to top the national league.

Shoplifting WPC fought to escape

Woman Police Constable Susan Hillier put up a struggle after being caught shoplifting and tried to escape from a store detective, magistrates in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, were told yesterday.

Mr James Coussey, for the prosecution, said Hillier had been on a shopping spree.

He said that despite being caught red-handed in Tesco's store, Cheltenham, where she was seen putting steaks and beef into a bag, Hillier protested her innocence to fellow officers.

Hillier, aged 31, of St George's Road, Cheltenham, admitted three charges of stealing food and clothes, worth a total of £35. She had been in the police force for 11 years, including two years as a detective. She resigned from the force on Tuesday.

Hillier was remanded until January 12 for reports.

Valve error caused Sellafield leak

By Ronald Fax

Mr Con Allday, chairman and chief executive of British Nuclear Fuels, admitted yesterday that a misunderstanding between shift managers led to the discharge of a radioactive slick into the Irish Sea five weeks ago.

The incident caused contamination to the beach near the Sellafield formerly Windscale reprocessing plant on the Cumbria coast.

At a press conference at Sellafield Mr Allday said that a valve was turned because a manager had not read a record made in the log book three days earlier. He did not know that high-level radioactivity had not been removed from water in a tank.

The error was a genuine misunderstanding, Mr Allday said although it should not have happened he was satisfied that the people involved had acted conscientiously and in good faith. No one was to be suspended or dismissed.

"This incident is serious for the company and for the nuclear industry. We must make sure nothing like it happens again", Mr Allday said. "I am sorry it has caused concern and alarm and that we have fallen from the very highest standards I expect. But there is no evidence that anyone has been hurt or that there was a significant hazard to the public."

The Department of the Environment has not yet lifted its warning to the public not to use the beach near Sellafield.

Mr Allday added: "We are confident with a high degree of certainty that it will not happen again because of new procedures including improved record-keeping, but no one can give absolute guarantees."

BBC shelves plan for pay-TV

By David Hewson and Bill Johnstone

The BBC put its satellite broadcasting plans on ice yesterday after deciding that its proposals for a launch in 1986 of a pay television service were unviable.

The decision, at a meeting of the governors, does not rule out the corporation's involvement in later satellite projects, but appears to shelve immediate plans for a two-channel service showing films and entertainment programmes.

A Broadcasting House statement said: "The board recognized the great difficulties which remain to be overcome by the BBC, industry and others in establishing a viable DBS (direct broadcasting by satellite) service, but concluded that the BBC should continue to explore all possibilities which will lead to the setting up of a British DBS system."

United Satellites, the prospective manufacturer of the BBC satellite system, remains convinced that the 1986 deadline for the television satellite launch can be met, despite the BBC's reluctance to sign a full contract.

The management of Unisat, a consortium of British Aerospace, British Telecom and GEC-Marconi, is nervous about saying anything which might jeopardize the contract. Mr Daniel Grunberg, managing director, said he was disappointed that no contract has been signed.

He said: "I would like them to have signed a long time ago. We recognize all the profound issues that are at stake. The complexities are quite astonishing."

Studies by the BBC on consumer response to the satellite service concluded that 200,000 subscribers would be the minimum needed for launch.

Threat of holiday pub strikes

By Richard Evans

An unprecedented strike which will shut 280 public houses in northern England today could spread throughout Britain during the Christmas and New Year festive period.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers gave unanimous backing yesterday to industrial action planned by managers employed by Pennine Host, the northern arm of a Grand Metropolitan subsidiary, over pay and conditions.

The strike will shut Host's northern public houses today, on the two days before Christmas Day and New Year's Day, and on January 1.

The Host group runs about 1500 public houses.

Mr David Carter, the association's national secretary, said last night many of the elements in Host's pay package would reduce managers' pay.

Video editors' 'high' pay

By David Hewson

London Weekend Television said yesterday that one of its videotape recorder editors had been earning £100,000 a year, not three as reported in *The Times*. The company refused to disclose the pay of its other video editors but conceded that they were "high".

Figures supplied by LWT to Companies House show that for the year ending July, 1982, three employees - each believed to be a video editor, earned, respectively, between £95,000 and £100,000, between £80,000 and £85,000, and between £70,000 and £75,000.

It is understood that overtime earnings by the same three employees substantially increased their wages this year.

The highest paid company director at LWT in 1982 received £54,299. In the same year 233 workers received between £20,000 and £25,000; 113, £25,000 to £30,000; 19, £30,000 to £35,000; eight, £35,000 to £40,000; 17, £40,000 to £45,000 and three received £55,000 to £60,000.

LWT denied that the videotape recorder team shift leader who earned more than £100,000 last year received such high wages because of a local agreement. It said that the payments resulted from a national ITV agreement, though it is understood that no other ITV company has video editors who regularly earn more than £50,000 a year.

Bobby Moore on drink charge

Bobby Moore, the former England football captain, was yesterday charged with a driving offence after a breath test conducted by Bedfordshire police. After a further test at Biggleswade police station, he was charged and bailed to appear in court at a date to be fixed.

Moore, who retired as a player six years ago, and who led England to the World Cup victory in 1966, was appointed chief executive of Southend United in the summer.



Retreat in time for two Royal Green Jackets.

In the steps of Sir John

Eight men from the 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets will spend their Christmas leave in nineteenth-century uniforms, retracing the steps of Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna in 1808.

The men, led by Captain Charles Blackmore, will leave Sahagun, south-east of Leon, on Christmas Eve and march to the same townings and follow the same route as Sir John's division, reaching Corunna, more than 300 miles to the north-west, on January 13.

Sir John safely withdrew his men, who had been in danger of encirclement by Napoleon's army, but was killed in battle on January 16, 1808. (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Arab cash for Chelsea footballers

By John Lawless

Chelsea Football Club yesterday became the first British club to be sponsored by an Arab backer when Gulf Air announced that it is to inject "a considerable sum" into the second division promotion challenge.

Gulf Air is thought to be paying £150,000 to have its name on the Chelsea shirts for just the remaining half of this season.

Mr Ken Bates, the club chairman, said that it would represent the most lucrative deal in football sponsorship if it is carried through to next season, which may depend on whether Chelsea does indeed climb back to the first division.

British football supporters have only just got used to their game being propped up by cash from Japanese corporations, with Canon sponsoring the League and JVC backing Arsenal.

But the Chelsea coup, completed at the Stamford Bridge ground, with coffee and dates in honour of their teetotal guests, is unique.

The contract calls for Chelsea to send its coaching specialists into the four states, which own the airline: Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "And the most promising players will come back to Chelsea to train and, hopefully, to play in the British league", Mr Bates said.

The prospects are favourable for Chelsea getting a renewal of the deal next year. The club is second in the second division, and Gulf Air was one of the world's few airline profit-makers last year, making \$39m.



Arafat to stand for rector post

Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has agreed to stand as a candidate for rector of Glasgow University next March. Mr Abdul Ibrahim, president of the university's Palestine Action Society, who has campaigned for Mr Arafat's candidacy says that the election campaign will promote the cause of the Palestinian people as part of the negotiated peace in the Middle East.

Quigley remand on bomb charge

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, of Glenalina Road, Belfast, was yesterday remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth Magistrates' Court, south London, accused of conspiring with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or damage property.

The hearing lasted two minutes.

Shots fired in BR robbery

Masked men fired shots when they held up a security vehicle at Hoo Junction, Lower Shore, near Gravesend, Kent, yesterday and stole £150,000 worth of British Rail wages.

British Rail staff gave chase in a car but eventually lost the robbers' van, which was later found abandoned at Strood, near Rochester.

Scots arrest

Mr Ian Howell, aged 28, who was being sought for questioning about the death of Jennifer Wright, whose body was found in a hostel in Oxford last week, was arrested near Inverness late on Wednesday.

Christmas lights

Mrs Mary Scotney, aged 76, switched a thousand Christmas lights on yesterday at her home and garden in Nene Parade, at March, Cambridgeshire, where the centrepiece is a 30ft high tree.

Schoolboy takes driving test man to court

Mr Andrew Rowland, aged 18, failed his driving test last week because of undue hesitancy. Torquay Magistrates' Court in Devon was told yesterday. But it was the examiner, Mr Barry James, who was the hesitant one, magistrates were told.

Mr James did not signal for Mr Rowland to do his emergency stop until nine minutes after he had first warned him it would be coming.

Mr Rowland, who is studying for his A levels at Torquay Grammar School, took Mr James to court in a rare case to have the test deemed to have been conducted improperly. But the magistrates found in Mr James' favour and ordered Mr Rowland to pay £30 costs.

Private health insurance subscriptions to rise

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Sharp increases in private health insurance are on the way from January for some subscribers to Private Patients Plan (PPP), the second largest of the health insurance groups.

Subscriptions will rise to a level about 15 per cent higher than a year ago for many individual subscribers, with increases ranging from 7.5 per cent to 35 per cent on last January.

The rise for members in small company-paid schemes will be between 26 per cent and 34 per cent on last January's rates. But the increases in some of PPP's large voluntary paid groups will be far smaller.

The increases come as Bupa has announced that its subscriptions will go up by between only 4 per cent and 10 per cent in January on the rates a year ago.

But the net effect of the changes is to leave the two groups, which between them share most of the market, broadly competitive.

Direct comparisons between subscription rates are complicated by differences in terms and conditions, but Bupa's individual subscription for a married man aged 30 to 49 with two children, providing cover for private and teaching hospitals outside London, will now be £434 a year.

PPP's equivalent will be £381 in the 30 to 39 age group, but £440 for those aged 45 to 49.

Which house with central heating is saving £100 a year?

Although you can't see from the outside, it's the one with cavity wall and loft insulation.

For full details on these and many other ways of insulating your home and saving money, simply send for our free booklet.

To: Energy Efficiency Office, P.O. Box 702, London SW20 8SZ. Please send a free copy of 'Make the most of your heating.'

Name _____

Address _____

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Action, if need be, over rebate

EEC BUDGET

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that she was greatly disappointed by the decision taken in the European Parliament...

Murray's action praised

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time that she welcomed the courageous action of the General Secretary of the TUC (Mr Len Murray)...

NGA DISPUTE

Trade union leaders who opposed personal freedom should not be emboldened, Mr Eric Cockeram (Ludlow, C) said later.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday, Motion for the Christmas adjournment...

Bill will allow Stock Exchange to evolve

Changes in practices proposed by the Stock Exchange would enable it to operate in a freer, more competitive atmosphere and fully justify the Government's decision that litigation through the Restrictive Practices Court should not proceed...

Minister criticizes gas and electricity campaigns

Advertising Standards Authority must reach a decision whether the claims were misleading or accurate. The Earl of Avon explained that the current campaign against the electricity supply industry was being paid for by a private consortium of manufacturers and not by the Gas Corporation...

Minister's warning to councils who overspend budget

The Government was displeased in boasting about reducing the figures for civil servants because DfES work has been passed to local authorities just when they were going to get less money to do it.

SCOTTISH RATES

Urging Scottish local authorities to get their spending into line with expenditure provision, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said the Government would accept that the individual circumstances of authorities would produce variations around the average.

Mr Younger said the cuts Mr Stewart had talked of were not borne out by the facts. Corrected for inflation, local authority spending in 1978-79 was £2,517m; in the current year it was £2,661m in real terms.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman in Scotland, said the statement confirmed that the Government was determined to pursue its wrong-headed vendetta against local services and those who depend on local services.

Younger: No need for rates to go up. Younger has, over the years, established his reputation as an ungenerous Scrooge and it is high time that he repented and reversed these unreasonable policies.

Procedure for complaints against police

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, has concluded that no case has been made out for radical changes to present arrangements for dealing with complaints against police in Scotland.

Bid to stop salmon poaching

The Government is considering measures to reduce the numbers of salmon taken illegally especially by organized gangs within the 12 mile limit of the salmon fishery.

Tougher rules to control straw burning

Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in the Commons that she had been discussing with the National Farmers Union a stronger code for straw burning which would be backed by tougher new model by-laws.

News control in war of electronics age

In a big, but non-nuclear, war international communications by telephone and telex would have to be severely restricted. A system of censorship of the press, television and radio would be required, and the Government would need to take powers to close publications which did not conform.

Prospects for developing a stable fishing industry

FISHERIES

The last piece of the common fisheries policy jigsaw was now in place, and the Government was already into discussions about the 1984 total allowable catches, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food declared in the Commons.

£3.7m to police Greenham

It has cost the Thames Valley police authority about £3,700,000 to police Greenham Common airbase, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

Shaw: A fair and constructive future

That agreement can be reached so as to bring about a fair and constructive future for the fishing industry. Would he give an assurance that, having got this far, he will continue to spare no effort to make sure that the agreement of the 1984 quotas and the implementation of the agreement that has been won will be carried through?

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discussion of these proposals at its next meeting in January. For the month of January, the Council agreed that fishing should continue on the basis of a rollover of the 1983 quotas as modified by the Agreement with Norway.

Mr Jopling: I am grateful for his most generous words. We shall begin as soon as possible to continue this work which was started yesterday. One very helpful thing about 1984 quotas has been we have already discussed them in a number of meetings of the Commission publishing them and I shall get them put into effect as soon as possible.

Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab): Will he undertake to see there is no reduction in our North Sea cod catches and falling that what share will be taken for compensation, in financial terms or in other quotas, for an industry which is going to suffer badly if they are reduced?

Mr Jopling: I am well aware of the problems which arise with regard to the North Sea cod stocks. The scientists' original proposal was on the basis of a very much lower total allowable catch of 180,000 tonnes, where we are now talking about 150,000 tonnes.

He is utterly wrong in saying the agreement on herring yesterday meant we have got to start again in a short time. The agreement we made yesterday with regard to herring will have staying power for the years ahead and there will be no renegotiation of the case, we arranged yesterday.

something as quickly as possible on salmon netting. My department has examined it and I shall discuss it with Lord Gray of Contin, Minister of State for Scotland, who has been having a series of meetings with special interests north of the border.

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Man pleted £200,000 first at an Sat an de club o interes castle i -match. Billy ager, 1 £500.0 Arsen played games, said: comm saw th when i very c major I came confid gac led Full botter yester squad Queer Tony midt both c Satur Sea of th havin him has b for fr mont

No assurance of industrial peace

It does not offer an assurance of industrial peace. My guess is that when the moderate leaders do get into a dispute they will be determined to prove that they are not a pushover. But they will be reduced to the Thatcher backing to futile, self-destructive strikes. That in itself should be a development of no small importance.

Whether the legislation endures beyond that will depend upon whether it becomes part of what Sir Keith Joseph has termed "the common ground" - whether, in other words, it becomes so generally accepted by the country at large that no administration would dare to discard it.

As members of the Government, ministers have every reason to be pleased that the unions will not be able to block the implementation of the industrial relations laws. But as Conservative politicians they may have rather more cause for concern. The unions will know that the only way to get rid of the legislation will be to get rid of the Government, which may induce them to give more wholehearted support to the Labour Party than they might otherwise have done.

Opting for more limited role

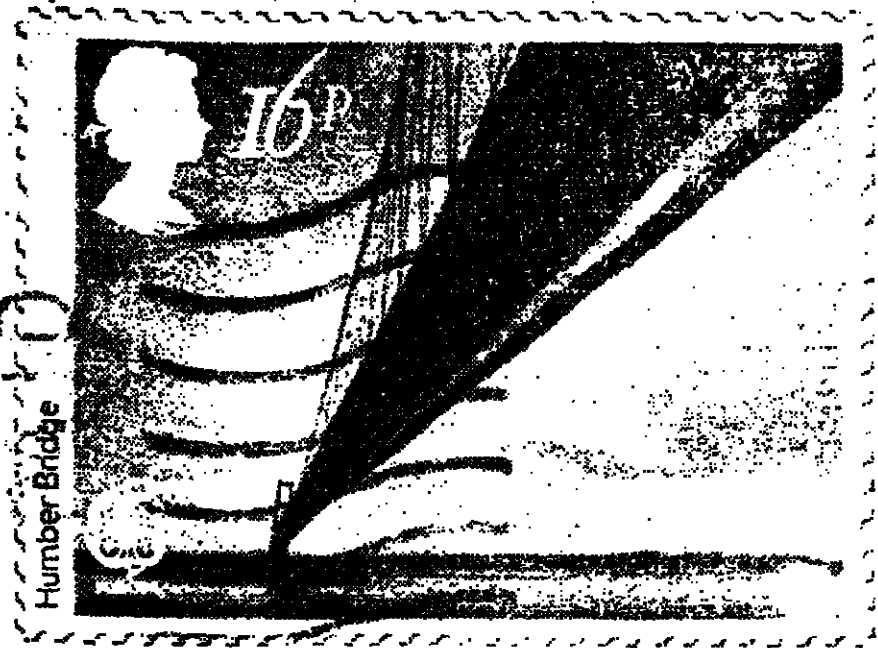
The unions are now opting for a more limited role than the one they have aspired to previously. So long as the present trend continues here will be no nonsense about seeking to make and break governments. The tendency will be for union leaders to concentrate on getting the best that they can for their members on the basis of existing laws by dealing with whatever party is elected to office.

The more limited role should be popular, or at least less unpopular, with the public. It accords with the general idea of what unions are there for. It should also lead to fewer of those excesses which have done so much to bring the trade union movement a bad name in recent years. If this is so, it will be good for the economic and social life of the country. It would also suggest that the unions might become less of a booby, and that association with them might become rather less of a handicap for the Labour Party.

But while the trend is towards moderation at the top of the union movement, it would be foolish to suppose that the militants have melted away. There are a number of important unions which remain under hardline control or at least very much subject to hardline influence. If that continues, and there is no evidence that it will not, the prospect will be for a greater polarization between moderate and militant unions.

The majority of unions may be becoming more realistic, but will it still be possible to think of a single, reasonably coherent union movement?

مكتبة من الأصل



Trafalgar House have just announced another record year. Turnover up 33% to £1.4b. Profits up 20% to £79m. Dividends up 18% to £21m.

But this year, financial analysts have not been alone in anticipating such impressive results.

Philatelists also had more than an inkling of what was going to come.

Because in May the Post Office issued three special stamps under the title "British Engineering Achievements."

Two out of the three featured works in which Trafalgar House companies have been deeply involved.

Our Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company and Redpath Dorman Long were members of the consortium responsible for the Humber Bridge, the longest single span bridge in the world.

How many other companies can put their results on the outside of the envelope?

And Cleveland also constructed and installed the gates and gate arms for the Thames Flood Barrier.

There were of course, several other significant Trafalgar House events this year which the Post Office has not yet celebrated in philatelic form.

For instance, the purchase of two new cruise ships, the Sagafjord and Vistafjord, which make Cunard's cruise fleet now the most luxurious in the world.

The acquisition of a significant stake in the Forties oil field from BP. The completion of the new Stoke Mandeville Hospital by Trollope & Colls. The Ankobra Bridge in Ghana. The Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

Put together, our year might be the basis for a whole album of stamps. In fact, for twenty years, with almost monotonous regularity, good news has been coming through the letter boxes of Trafalgar House shareholders.

In 1964, our first Annual Report as a public company showed turnover of £446,000 and profits of £86,000.

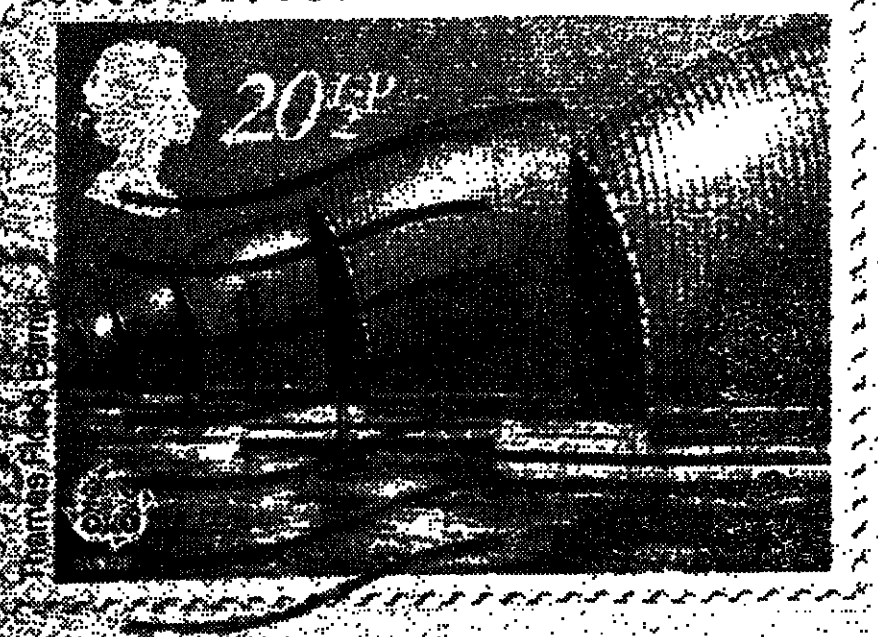
Last year, Trafalgar House earned £500m in overseas sales alone.

You can find out exactly how we've built our business by getting us to send you a copy of our company report.

We will be posting them bearing some very particular stamps. After all, philately is the sincerest form of flattery.

For a copy of our 1983 Report and Accounts, contact The Secretary at 1 Berkeley Street, London W1X6NN

Trafalgar House
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY



Guardian is told to surrender cruise missiles document

The Guardian was ordered by a High Court judge in London yesterday to hand over a secret memorandum that could lead to the unmasking of a "mole" in the Government service. The surrender, however, is to be delayed until tonight to allow the newspaper time to appeal.

Judgment in the appeal is expected today. The Guardian assured the High Court, however, that it would obey the court's final order.

Mr Justice Scott rejected arguments by the newspaper's lawyer, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, that it was entitled to protect anonymous source under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

The memorandum, about the delivery of cruise missiles to Greenham Common, was published by the newspaper on October 31.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, and Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, asked for the document back unmutated so that they could identify the source from markings on it.

The judge said that the newspaper did not contest that the Secretary of State and the Attorney General were the rightful owners of the document. It was also accepted that no damage will be, or has been, suffered by its publication.

The newspaper claimed that under the Contempt Act it would have to reveal its source

only if it was in the interests of justice, national security, or for the prevention of disorder or crime. It claimed that none of those conditions applied.

But the judge said that the Act could not be used to limit the right of an owner to recover property.

Mr Simon Brown, for the Secretary of State and the Attorney General had argued that there was a matter of national security at stake because the leak showed that someone in a high place in the Government service was untrustworthy. He said that "national security required that he be identified and got rid of" the judge said.

It had also been argued that other Governments might be reluctant to share information with Britain until the source was identified, but the judge said he did not think it was self-evident that other Governments might react as described.

The judge said it was a case where "injustice" might be done if he refused to grant the order. Further, if he was wrong on his interpretation of the Contempt Act there would be an arguable case to be tried on the question of security.

In ordering that the document should be handed over he also ordered the newspaper to pay the costs of the hearing.

Law Report, page 9



Marek Zwiefka-Sibley and Emma Lesiecka in London yesterday holding some of the 15,000 cards being sent to Polish refugee children in Austria. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Herring quotas agreement rescues Europe's common fisheries policy

From Ian Murray, Brussels

"Blue Europe" is now complete. Fisheries ministers in Brussels have eventually sorted out a six-month wrangle over North Sea herring quotas, which means that the common fisheries policy, signed last January, can at last be made fully operational.

Mr Michael Jopling, the British minister, emerged extremely happy from the meeting when it ended in the middle of Wednesday night. The agreement, he said, was "a triumph for British fishermen". They had been allocated more herring than he had ever hoped for.

The agreement means that next year Britain is to be allowed to catch 24.15 per cent of the 155,000 tonnes of herring which scientific advice suggests would be the proper level to preserve stocks.

Mr Jopling pointed out that over the 16 years up to 1976, when herring fishing had to be banned to save it from extinction in the North Sea, Britain had averaged only 16.7 per cent of total catches.

The final agreement became possible because the conservation measures imposed in 1976 had been so successful. When the ban was lifted earlier this year the allowable quota was set at just 84,300 tonnes.

Next year the figure is nearly twice as high, and it is hoped that, by careful controls to prevent overfishing, it will be more than a quarter of a million tonnes before long.

It was the prospect of more fish in the future which eventually persuaded Holland and Denmark to accept the herring quotas. According to the agreement, Denmark is given a progressively larger and larger share of the available fish.

At the 250,000 tonne mark - which is considered to be the upper limit at which the fish can be sold for consumption - the Danish share would rise from its present 21.15 per cent level to 35 per cent. The extra Danish fish would be to keep Denmark's fishmeal industry supplied.

Agreement on herring quotas is to last for 20 years, like the rest of the common fisheries policy. But falling stocks of cod and haddock, which make up 50 per cent of Britain's catch, mean that the industry could face a tough time next year.

The Commission wants to reduce the quotas for North Sea haddock by 18 per cent and the quotas for cod by 7 per cent next year. This would cost British fishermen something like £15m over the year.

155,000 tonne quota	Up to 250,000	Over 250,000	
W. Germany	13.3	15	17.5
France	13.8	12	6.5
Holland	27.5	27	21.5
Belgium	7.100	(6,000)	1
Britain	24.15	22	17.5
Denmark	21.15	22	35

Belgium is assured a minimum tonnage until stocks rise to above the 250,000 mark, when it would receive 1 per cent.

Singapore leaves few Stones unturned

From David Watts, Singapore

While the rest of the world worries about unemployment and nuclear missiles, Singapore is concerned about the Rolling Stones and chewing-gum.

The Government has banned the latest Stones album and is thinking of doing the same to chewing-gum. Neither is likely to cause great cultural deprivation as the album is already seeping in on the black market anyway.

However, officials of the Goethe Institute are still gasping at what the ministry did to the industry that is still brought in for a German film festival.

A film of Günter Grass's *The Tin Drum* was so unglad by the time the Ministry of Culture censors had finished that it had to be thrown away.

Though the films were, it shows to a restricted audience, they had to be censored under Singapore law. But what appalled Goethe Institute officials was that, instead of consulting about cuts, the ministry went ahead and made them, ruining one of the few copies of the film.

Some eighteen months ago Singapore appeared to be easing restrictions on importing foreign films and leaving in risqué scenes where cuts would ruin the integrity of a production. Clearly, there has been a rethink, or ministry bureaucrats are unaware of any more liberal attitude.

It was a cautious man who first spotted the offending Stones album. Undercover, with his picture of a naked woman. Soon a letter was on its way from the Controller of Undesirable Publications, pointing out that the cover was unsuitable for the Singapore market and saying distribution would not be permitted.

The distributors, anticipating this, have tried to persuade the Stones to use a less controversial cover for the local market, but to no avail.

No doubt chewing-gum will be smuggled in too, despite a television ban on gum advertising, due in March.

"Personally I consider it rather obnoxious seeing very good-looking young boys and girls wandering around with their jaws moving like cows chewing their cud," Mr S. P. S. Dhanabalan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture, said.

"From being a country that has become associated with cutting the long hair of men, we'll become associated with the banning of chewing-gum, which isn't something I'm particularly concerned about," said the minister, who claimed that Singapore spends more than £20,000 a year cleaning up the mess left by gum chewers.

Singapore has long since dispensed the notion that it is a "little dragon", an offshore representative office of Peking in a predominantly Malay-Stock area.

But if the political and economic comparisons do not apply, some of the cultural ones do: just as Peking is cleansing the country of foreign cultural pollution, so Singapore is strengthening its defences against undesirable extraneous foreign culture.

Christians get Peking protection

From Christopher Wren, (New York Times)

Dr Robert Runcie, said here that Chinese Christians are enjoying greater safeguards in trying to build a church, but he stopped short of suggesting they have achieved religious freedom.

The Primate, who is about to end a two-week visit to China, told a press conference on Wednesday that his hosts had shown him recent legislation that protected Christians from the persecution they suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

"From this I take it that the official political line is one of broadening through the constitution and the criminal code the possibilities of free religious practice", Runcie said.

It was too early, he said in reply to a question, to tell whether full religious freedom existed. "Certainly I have seen evidence that there are more churches opened, more Bibles available, and I can only assume that is the result of less political pressure against such things."

Children want Marcos to quit

Manila - About 2,000 children yesterday marched through the business district here, demanding the resignation of President Marcos (Keith Dalton writes).

Miss Kristina Aquino aged 12, the daughter of murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino, led the children. "The only Christmas present I want is for President Marcos to resign," she said.

Mitterrand visit to back Belgrade

From Dessa Trevisan, Belgrade

President Mitterrand began a three-day visit to Yugoslavia yesterday. The aim of the trip, apart from reinforcing trade, economic and political ties, is to demonstrate France's support for Yugoslavia in its long-aligned role between east and west.

M. Mitterrand is accompanied by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, and three ministers in charge of foreign trade, finance and transport.

Yugoslavia is going through serious economic difficulties and is counting on financial support. Last year France joined other Western countries and the International Monetary Fund in providing a package of financial assistance which eased the burden of debt repayments.

Yugoslavia has succeeded in increasing its exports to countries with convertible currencies and in reducing drastically its balance of payments deficit. Next year it is counting on further financial backing.

The Yugoslav Government will also raise with President Mitterrand its wish to increase its exports to the European Community.



President Mitterrand, in a study by Konrad Muller, a West German photographer, in the garden of his house at Latche, south-west France.

Aid groups worried by police Bill

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Voluntary bodies added yesterday to growing concern that the Criminal Evidence Bill would allow confidential records and documents to be seized, despite Government undertakings.

The Law Society has already criticized loopholes leaving private legal, medical and journalistic material open to search and seizure.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations has now urged Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, to revise the Bill at committee stage.

The council has written on behalf of a wide range of voluntary bodies worried that loopholes and ambiguities will give police access to the files.

Faced with that threat, the organizations say they will have to make a "harsh" choice. They could cease recording clients' personal details or withdraw guarantees that such information would be held in confidence.

Mr Nicholas Hinton, its director, says in the letter: "NCVO and a number of other voluntary organizations would prefer to see a simpler procedure, giving clearer protection to the records of voluntary organizations, whether held by paid staff or volunteers."

Alternatively, the council would like amendments to the Bill extending the scope of excluded material and protecting it from seizure.

The standing committee on the Bill yesterday approved Clause 4, which regulates police powers to mount road checks.

The Reyn-Bardt case Why an ancient skull trapped a killer

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The woman's skull which led to Peter Reyn-Bardt's confession to the killing of his wife was so well preserved by the Cheshire peat bog in which it had lain for more than 1,500 years that it still contained parts of the brain, hair and ligaments when it was found earlier this year.

Indeed, it was only when the remains were sent to the radiocarbon dating laboratory at Oxford University that the police discovered that it could not have belonged to Reyn-Bardt's wife, Marika, who died in June, 1960.

Because the skull was so well preserved and the structure of the nose matched that in a photograph of the missing wife, the pathologist who first examined it was convinced that it came from Marika.

The skull was found in May by a workman excavating peat for a Somerset mushroom farm about 300 yards from Heathfield Cottage in Wilmslow where Reyn-Bardt killed his wife, probably during an argument over money. When the police were brought in they sent a team of investigators to the mushroom farm to sift through the rest of the peat for further remains.

But the only other item found in that and other searches of the land surrounding Heathfield Cottage was a two-inch long iron pin which could have come from the hair of the skull or a leather working awl. Experts are unsure whether the pin dates from Roman or Saxon times.

Confronted with the discovery of the skull, Reyn-Bardt, who had previously denied

How to spot that short measure

By Tony Sanasarg

More than half of public houses may be serving short measures of spirits, a survey of hotels and bars in Merseyside has shown. Trading standards officers bought about 60 drinks and found that more than 35 of them were short-measured.

Although Merseyside County Council prosecuted 12 licensees, who were fined a total of more than £800, officers conceded that most of the violations were probably inadvertent.

Confusion generally arises with non-standard spirits, such as single malt whiskies, fine brandies and the like, which are not connected to Optic measures and therefore require the use of a thimble. Mr Peter Mawdsley, principal investigations officer for Merseyside, says bar staff are often not properly trained in use of the thimble. "The thimble measure should be filled to the top, and if there is any spillage it should fall into the glass. Customers should insist on seeing their drink poured."

The most celebrated short-measure case recently, in which the Savoy Hotel in London admitted selling a short measure of malt whisky in its American bar, also involved a waiter described in court as "a young, inexperienced chap".

Drinkers who want to check a measure should watch the bartender filling the thimble. It should be held absolutely level over the glass and filled to the brim. Even Optics can be fiddled by withdrawing the glass too quickly.

Ice in the glass makes it almost impossible to guess whether the measure is accurate.

Christmas gift for Rock

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Coinciding with the first many trips as they wish to and from Spain in one day. During the past 12 months the visits have been limited to one in any 24 hours.

Spain's 'right to education' Bill Church and state battle over private schools

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A long running controversy over state-financed education came to a climax this week, as the Spanish Parliament debated the so-called "right to education" Bill introduced by the Minister of Education, Señor Jose Maria Maravall.

Doctrinaire socialism and militant Catholicism are struggling for influence, while many ordinary parents and taxpayers that only want the best education for their children that state funding can provide.

The minister, who holds an Oxford doctorate in sociology, under attack for choosing to send his own children to Madrid's fee-paying British Institute. Opponents of the Bill charge that he wants to deprive other parents of their right to choose a religious education for their children.

They do not stop short of accusing the Socialist Minister of attempting to abolish Spain's Catholic Church-run education altogether.

Spain is remarkable for having more than one third of its primary and secondary education run privately. Most private schools are in the hands of the Catholic Church, but receive state subsidies of up to 100 per cent.

The Church built up this almost unique position during the Franco period. In Zaragoza, for example, there were only two state grammar schools and more than 50 private secondary schools at the time of the dictator's death in 1975.

A majority of Spain's Catholic bishops, believing they enjoy the firm support of the Pope, are anxious to maintain their sway over educating the young in a country where almost everyone is nominally a Catholic.

Señor Maravall's Bill would replace the education law of 1979, introduced by the Centre Democrats, which gave the

Church generous funds for education with little supervision. The minister hardly helped matters, however, when he addressed a Socialist teachers' congress last weekend and accused the entire private sector of being motivated only by the desire for economic gain.

Tomorrow the Catholic lay organizations are preparing their reply, urging millions of parents to demonstrate in the big cities and help to collect up to 10 million signatures for a petition against the Bill.

The right-wing Father Angel Suerres, chairman of the Federation of Private Education Establishments, who is locked in a power struggle with the Education Minister, claimed yesterday that the state had a constitutional obligation to finance his organization's schools regardless of the parliamentary debate.

What most angers owners of the privately-run schools is that supervision by the state would be coupled with new school councils, on which parents and staff could easily out-vote the proprietors and the headmasters both on administrative matters and the curriculum.

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That's because with its three speeds and 'pulse' button the Gourmet gives you the control you need to make everything perfectly.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Genia peace
Journalists under US Marine fire
Clashes
Atom tests damage not proved

Lebanon's President in London

Gemayel sounds warning about peace troops quitting too soon

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Hasty withdrawal of the multinational peace keeping force (MNF) from Beirut would have "very grave consequences" for the Middle East and for the world at large, President Gemayel of Lebanon said yesterday.

It would undermine the "promising" process of reconciliation among his country's warring factions (which was begun at Geneva last month), he told a press conference in London. He was on an official visit which ended yesterday.

President Gemayel hoped soon to announce the date and place for the next round of reconciliation talks, at which he would like to fix the terms of reference for a new "broadly-based government of national unity".

But he would not confirm reports that negotiations will resume in Montreux, Switzerland, next week. That would have to wait until after a meeting in Damascus on Sunday between the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting would also discuss the withdrawal of Mr Yassir Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organization troops from Tripoli, he said.

But he was full of praise and gratitude for those countries, including Britain, which had supplied contingents for the MNF.

"I know you would like some indication of how long it might be before the British contingent can return home. Indeed, if I knew that, there would be no need for their presence in Lebanon."

"It will be the responsibility of the new broadly based government to arrange with the countries concerned the withdrawal of the MNF after that of all other foreign forces. Lebanon is under a moral obligation to see that all those of our friends who have come to our aid, return home safe and untouched."

● STRASBOURG: It was vitally important to involve the Soviet Union in the search for peace in the Middle East, King Husam of Jordan told the European Parliament yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

The king, in Strasbourg to be awarded the Parliament's gold medal, called on Europe to highlight the need for a dialogue between the two superpowers to prevent the danger of new polarizations and a disastrous new eruption of violence in the Middle East.

The king was highly critical of the American position. He said Israel seemed to be encouraged in its expansionist quest by American reluctance to remain true to the fundamental principle of international law that territory could not legally be taken by force.

"They have all but totally destroyed United States credibility and allowed the spectre of superpower polarization to loom menacingly over the area."

"We belong to the same school of thought", he told the settlers. "But we absolutely must not get involved in settlers' violence. Those people who have been strong in what they have built must also be strong in self-control."

● Athens - An attempt to revive the dialogue between Arabs and West Europeans after a hiatus lasting five years, ended here in total fiasco when the delegates failed to agree on a joint communiqué (Mario Modiano writes).

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He was speaking after two days of talks which, he added, showed much common ground between representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Yugoslavia, Malta, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and San Marino.

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DESPITE HIS AGE THIS ONE WILL RUN... AND RUN!

I NEVER SAID NEVER AGAIN

RR

Bomb hits S African ministry

Johannesburg (AFP) - At least seven people were hurt when two bombs exploded yesterday in two buildings in central Johannesburg, the South African news agency Sapa reported.

One of the devices apparently went off in an office of the Foreign Ministry, on the fourth floor of a building opposite Johannesburg City Hall. Police cordoned off glass-littered streets around the 11-storey building and an office block next door which was also damaged.

Poll boycott

Kingston, (AP) - Jamaicans yesterday went through the motions of a national election, but with only six constituencies being contested out of 60, the ruling party of Mr Edward Seaga is assured of remaining in power. The main opposition party boycotted the poll.

Fatal defoliant

Belém, Brazil (AFP) - Forty-two people have died from a defoliant use by a private electrification firm, Senhor João Batista Bastos, Agriculture Minister of state of Pará, said here. The defoliant was used to cut a swathe through the Amazonian jungle to build a 500-mile power line.

Tutu praised

Durban (AP) - A mercy plea by Bishop Desmond Tutu saved the lives of four white mercenaries sentenced to be hanged for a bungled coup attempt in the Seychelles, Martin Doincheck, a mercenary freed from a long jail sentence, said here. He praised the bishop as a "committed Christian".

Star's son fined

Paris (AP) - Paul Belmondo, aged 20, the car-crash son of Jean-Paul Belmondo, the film actor, was given a one-month suspended prison sentence and fined about \$400 for assaulting a photographer who attempted to take his picture with Princess Stephanie of Monaco.

Bomber appeals

Rangoon (AP) - Captain Kang Min Chul, of North Korea, sentenced to death last week for his role in the bombing which killed 21 persons, including four South Korean Cabinet members here in October, is to appeal. Major Zin Mo, also sentenced to death, did not appeal.

Player cleared

Stockholm (AP) - Vyacheslav Bykov, a Soviet ice-hockey player accused of shoplifting in a department store, was acquitted by a court here.

Climber killed

Katmandu (AP) - A 37-year-old technician from Warsaw was killed instantly after falling 230ft during an assault on Mount Manaslu in northwest Nepal.

Costly review

Düsseldorf (AP) - A West German court has ordered a food critic to pay damages to a restaurant owner who was forced to close after a review that compared one of his entrées to "shoe leather and coal." The amount will be decided later.

Journalists under US Marine fire

From Robert Fisk

As if journalists did not have enough problems with the armed militias of Lebanon, an American television crew yesterday found itself under fire from US Marines after its driver took a wrong turning into the marine compound at Beirut airport.

The driver was grazed in the head by a bullet and the reporter, Mr Joe Corcoran, from a National Broadcasting Company affiliate in North Carolina, was hurt by broken glass when the marine guards shot at their car.

It was a sign of just how nervous the Marines have become in Beirut - and just how dangerous the craft of journalism is becoming in the world's most dangerous city. The crew's car apparently resembled a vehicle which might be carrying a bomb, and the driver, a Lebanese, failed to stop when the Marines fired warning shots into the ground around the vehicle.

He made the cardinal error of trying to reverse in panic, at which the Marines shot to kill and missed. As Mr Robert Perry, the news director of WTTN-TV put it bluntly, if a rifle ungenerously, afterwards: "We got a driver that apparently didn't know where he was going and almost got us killed. I think they (the Marines) were justified in doing what they did. They told him to halt and he didn't."

In fact, Marines had earlier given the driver incorrect instructions on how to enter the heavily guarded base.

Shamir calms angry settlers

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah

Angry calls from Jewish settlers for harsher policies against Arab stone-throwers, including deportation and stiff minimum jail sentences, were yesterday rejected by Mr Yitzhak Shamir, making his first tour of the occupied West Bank as Prime Minister.

Speaking at Bracha, a controversial new outpost overlooking the Palestinian town of Nablus, Mr Shamir surprised his ultra-nationalist audience by saying that stone-throwing was only a secondary problem. He stressed that those who attacked Jews

were a small section of the 800,000 West Bank Arab population. After listening to complaints from Jewish settlers, Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister.

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Doubts over future of Vienna talks

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Doubts over the future of the long-running East-West talks in Vienna on Mutual Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) persisted last night, after delegates broke up for Christmas without fixing a date for their resumption.

The Western side had proposed a return to the negotiating table on January 26, but the Warsaw Pact countries for once had not responded.

Mr Willem de Vos van Steenwijk of Holland, who acted as Nato spokesman, said the Western powers regretted the outcome.

The confusion was not unexpected, coming after extensive leaking in the West, where diplomats have tried to play down the significance of the Soviet-led action.

Soviet officials have themselves been at pains to indicate that a date for resumption is likely to be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

But Herr Andre Wieland, the East German Ambassador to the talks, said pointedly that the West's rejection of "all practical solutions" had raised the question of whether the negotiations could continue at all in their present form.

MBFR talks opened exactly 10 years ago with the objective of negotiating a reduction in the number of troops on either side in Central Europe. But they have been deadlocked for most of the time, most recently over Warsaw Pact insistence that it has 150,000 fewer forces than Nato contends.

Prosecutor seeks 7 years for nanny

Livorno (Reuter)

The prosecution in the trial of Carol Compton, the Scottish nanny, called yesterday for a seven-year prison sentence for arson and attempted murder.

In his two-hour summing-up speech, the prosecutor, Signor Arturo Cindolo, told the jury that the two professional and six lay judges that they should not convict the 21-year-old girl of arson alone.

Miss Compton is standing trial for crimes the prosecution says she committed while working for two Italian families in 1982. She denies the charges, which claim that one of the five fires she is alleged to have lit was meant to kill a three-year-old child in her care.

Speaking on the fourth day of the trial, Signor Cindolo said he could offer little explanation for the crimes, although he repeated suggestions that Miss Compton might have lit the fires so that she could return to her boyfriend in Rome.

Earlier in the day the court heard evidence from two psychiatrists who said they found Miss Compton to be fundamentally sane, although with some mental abnormalities.

Signor Cindolo bitterly criticized the way much of the case had been conducted. Referring to allegations of bizarre events in the houses where Miss Compton worked, he said: "We have talked more fully about falling vases than about the baby she is accused of murdering."

He also attacked the British press who, he said, had talked of witches and then said "we were to try her for witchcraft. We are here to judge calmly and logically... something which is logical for us must be so for the whole world."

Three judges indicted

Chicago (AP) - Three present and former Cook County circuit judges and seven other men have been indicted here after a three-year undercover investigation of corruption in America's largest court system.

Those indicted were judges Wayne Olson and John Murphy, and former Judge John Devine, a Chicago policeman, four attorneys, a deputy court clerk and a private individual.

The indictments alleged bribes or demands for pay-offs ranging from \$30 (£21) to \$30,000. The cases ranged from relatively minor offences, such as traffic tickets, to drug cases and such matters as divorces and trust funds.

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Clashes on French press Bill

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A debate began in the French Parliament last night on the Government's highly controversial Bill on press monopolies. This is aimed officially at limiting the size of press conglomerates and unofficially at breaking the back of the right-wing Hersant press empire.

The previous night an Opposition censure motion accusing the Government of attacking the fundamental right of freedom of information was overwhelmingly defeated by 247 votes to 158, but only after heated exchanges which at one stage prompted the Prime Minister to walk out, followed by the Socialist and Communist MPs.

The Bill seeks to prohibit any one man or group from owning more than three national papers whose combined circulation must not exceed 15 per cent of total national newspaper sales; owning both a national daily paper and a provincial daily paper; and owning provincial dailies (of unlimited number) whose combined circulation exceeds 15 per cent of total provincial daily sales.

In addition, it stipulates that the name of the person who owns or controls a newspaper must in future be published in each issue of that paper, together with the titles of any other papers within the same ownership, the name of the editor and the size of the paper's circulation.

M Robert Hersant, owner of the leading right-wing daily, Le Figaro, falls foul of the proposed law in two ways. He owns three national papers whose combined sales amount to 40 per cent of the total, and 14 provincial dailies, whose sales are within the proposed limit, as well as some 18 other publications.

He would therefore either have to sell all his national titles and keep his provincial papers, or sell all his provincial papers and in addition one or two of his national papers so as to bring his national circulation within the 15 per cent limit. There is no circulation limit for a single paper.

M Hersant, who is used to fighting battles, claims and acted as if he is not worried. One source of comfort to M Hersant is his conviction that the provisions of the Bill will not be able to be enforced until 1986, by which time he believes that France will have voted a right-wing majority back into Parliament.

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Washington mission by Trudeau

From Mobsin Ali, Washington

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, after touring the world in the past two months with his nuclear disarmament proposals, yesterday brought his peace initiative to President Reagan here.

Mr Trudeau hopes that his campaign will eventually produce a meeting of five nuclear weapons powers - the US, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China - aimed at reducing nuclear tension, and bringing about nuclear non-proliferation and better crisis management.

Reagan Administration officials have been lukewarm to such a five-power meeting at this stage. Mr Trudeau has discussed his proposals in several West European capitals, as well as in Tokyo, Peking and at the recent Commonwealth summit in Delhi. He hopes to visit Moscow for similar consultations at a date yet to be fixed.

His proposals include a ban on "star wars", anti-satellite systems and clamping a lid on the current angry East-West rhetoric.

Walesa to lay wreath

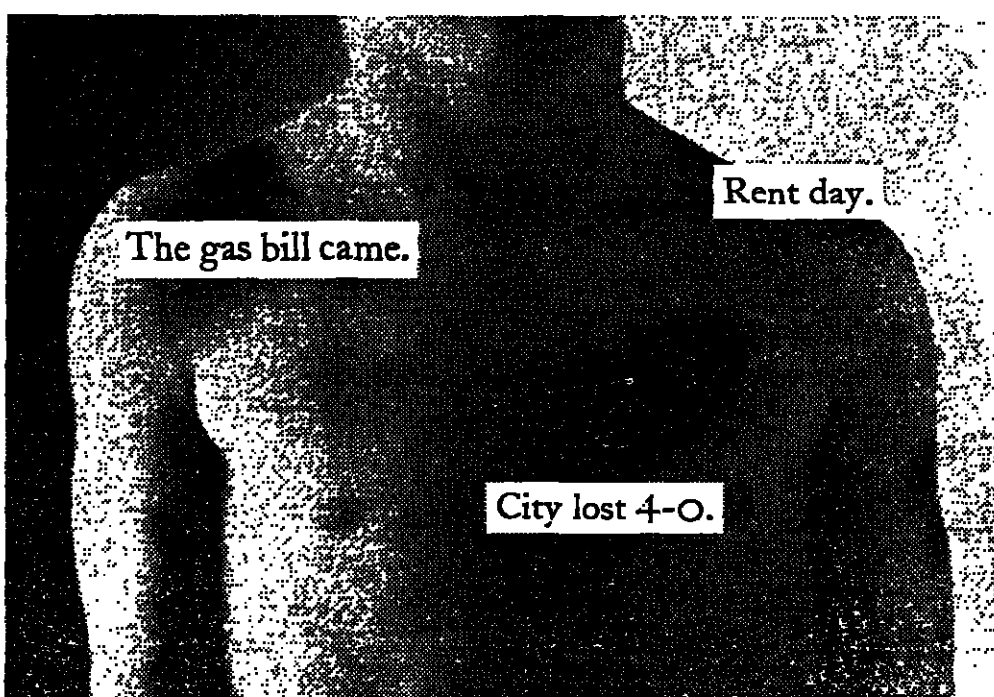
Gdansk (Reuter)

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's banned Solidarity trade union, said yesterday that he would lay flowers today at a monument to shipyard workers killed by police, as union supporters prepared for a day of anti-government protest.

Underground Solidarity spokesmen have urged Poles to demonstrate peacefully in Warsaw and other cities to mark the thirteenth anniversary of the killings during food riots in Gdansk in 1970.

Solidarity hopes, page 14

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The gas bill came. City lost 4-0.

Luckily, we got there before his father was made redundant.

Most families cope with everyday problems and anxieties. But some parents just can't tolerate the stress. For them each difficulty is seen as a catastrophe. Bitter and frustrated, they resort to violence and often inflict it on those they should be closest to - their own children.

Since 1984, the NSPCC has helped save more than 9 million children from suffering serious or fatal injuries at the hands of their parents. Sometimes we can only do it by removing the children. But in most cases we keep the family together. We sort out the problems that led to the violence. And we stay in touch once the family is more stable - ready to help at any time if another crisis occurs.

NSPCC form with fields for Name, Address, Postcode, and a section for 'Yes, I would like to help...' with checkboxes for 'Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.' and 'BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE'.

We can't do it without spending money of course. And for that, we depend almost entirely on your generosity. Any donation you can make

Alfonso begins military purge by naming four new chiefs of staff

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsín has named four new chiefs of staff of the armed forces, in the first step towards what he promised would be a "substantial and profound" reform of Argentina's military structure.

The Defence Minister, Sr Borras, announced the appointments on Wednesday night, just 24 hours after President Alfonsín ordered the trial of nine former military junta members on charges of torture, torture, and illegal deprivation of liberty, in connection with human rights abuses.

General Julio Fernandez Torres, a career infantry officer who once disobeyed orders from former President Galtieri during the Falklands war, is to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

This is Argentina's top-ranking military post, president Alfonsín eliminated the rank of commander-in-chief in all three services on the ground that the constitution empowers the

President to be commander-in-chief of all military forces.

General Jorge Arguindegy, an officer with a reputation of being non-political, was named Chief of Staff of the Army Rear-Admiral Ramon Arasa was designated Chief of Staff of the Navy, and Brigadier Teodoro Waldner will occupy the same post in the Air Force.

President Alfonsín's choices imply a virtual purge of the existing military leadership, as the promotion of younger officers will automatically force 29 generals into retirement from the Army 17 admirals from the Navy and two brigadiers from the Air Force.

The new Government has pledged to rid the armed forces of officers with political ambitions and to place the military under firm civilian control which may turn out to be the most difficult task facing Sr Alfonsín.

Besides their long history of invention in Government,

Argentina's armed forces greatly increased their economic and political power during the last seven years of military rule. The armed forces are also widely believed to have become corrupt and to be responsible for numerous atrocities during their campaign against left-wing terrorism in the mid-1970's.

President Alfonsín has promised that those officers responsible for human rights violations will be brought to justice, and that he will transform the services into "strong, effective armed forces that will play their proper role within the constitution."

General Fernandez Torres, the centrepiece of the Government's military reforms, reportedly refused to obey an order from General Galtieri to launch a parachute attack on Goose Green during last year's war on the ground that it would inflict unacceptably high casualties on the Argentine troops.

Finance and Industry, page 17



Nun killed: Sister Joan Sawyer from Belfast (in white, back), a Columbian Order nun, who was killed in a shoot-out in Lima, Peru, after being taken hostage, with three other nuns, by 18 escaped convicts. She was a social worker with slum-dwellers, pictured with her. Four convicts also died in the gun battle with police.

Meese's remarks hard to swallow

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, has the pink, rounded countenance of someone who likes to eat well, which perhaps partly explains why a remark he made about hunger in America has created such a political storm.

In a recent interview, Mr Meese said he had never seen authoritative figures that there were any hungry children in the US. He also said he had "considerable information that people go to soup kitchens because the food is free" and "that's easier than paying for it."

His remarks naturally produced a storm in a soup bowl. Democratic Congressmen and welfare organizations have excoriated him for his lack of sensitivity to the needs of the hungry, arguing that their numbers have increased sharply as a result of Reagan Administration cutbacks in social programmes.

According to the Congressional budget office, food stamp spending will be down by \$7,000m (£2,700m) between fiscal 1982 and fiscal 1985 as a result of Reagan cuts, while spending for child nutrition programmes will be down by \$5,300m.

Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker and an outspoken critic, pointedly noted that the Administration was still refusing to release \$44m

King has last laugh in Malaysia crisis

From M. G. G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's four-and-half-month constitutional deadlock ended as abruptly as it began. But the acting King, in signing the controversial amendments to law, yesterday had the last laugh.

Besides getting a written undertaking from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, for a special parliamentary session next month to incorporate the ruler's objections into the constitution, he placed him on the defensive.

The constitutional amendments, passed last August and 23 provisions, which apart from the contentious provisions the rulers objected to, also included the new parliamentary and state boundaries.

If these changes were not gazetted into law by Thursday the boundaries could not be altered for another eight years. Considerable political problems would then have been brought to bear upon the Prime Minister from his own supporters.

The rulers objected to the provisions that transferred the authority to impose an emergency from the King to the Prime Minister, the extension of some of these provisions to the states, and the automatic assent into law of any Bill that the King did not sign within 15 days of it being presented to him.

The special parliamentary session, would be held before January 11, when Datuk Seri Mahathir goes to the United States on an official visit.

There are indications that the original amendments were ill conceived and followed a fear by Dr Mahathir that the next King - probably the Sultan of Perak of Johore - would be as independent in Kuala Lumpur as they are in the states. Malaysia's King is elected every five years from among the nine hereditary rulers.

Dr Mahathir, as part of the compromise, would ensure that the parliamentary session next month would restore the rulers' powers in the state, and give the power to impose the emergency back to the king.

If the King disagreed with a Bill, he could send it back to Parliament for further debate. If Parliament passed it again, this time with a two-thirds majority, it would become law within 30 days.

Ironically, this could prove to be a delaying action that the Government may not like. Some sources speculated yesterday that the King could use this power to delay emergency Bills that the Government sometimes gets through Parliament in a day.

By then, of course, the Greek Government will have made up its mind whether it will declare invalid the Noel-Baker titles to this land which are said to date back to 1832.

"Achmetaga" was named after the Turkish landowner who sold it for 10,000 gold sovereigns to Edward Noel, the present owner's great-grandfather, when Greece regained its independence.

A ruling of the Supreme Forestry Commission last month challenged the validity of the Noel-Baker title on the ground that the Turkish title-deed surrendered unaccept, not ownership.

Mr Moschos Gikoulogou, the Greek Under-Secretary of Agriculture, who must accept or reject the commission's recommendation, said: "We have nothing against Mr Noel-Baker. We referred to the

Man against the state Ex-MP fights to keep his land

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Undeterred by the threat that Greece might seize "Achmetaga", his 11,000-acre wooded estate on the island of Euboea, Mr Francis Noel-Baker, the former Labour MP for Swindon, is planning to develop it into a holiday resort.

Last weekend, he accompanied Mr John Blay, of Clydebank International, the British developers, for a survey of the area. "In the first phase," Mr Noel-Baker said, "we plan to build 50 holiday villas on non-forest land." Mr Blay said the intention was to start developing early in the spring.

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commission 122 similar cases of contested titles of private forests. We could hardly have exempted him."

Mr Noel-Baker believes the Government established this new procedure in an attempt to take over his estate without paying adequate compensation required by the constitution. He said he would fight his case in the Greek courts.

Greek officials claimed that in earlier negotiations Mr Noel-Baker had revoked an offer to give the 10,700 acres of fir and pine forest to the state. If it let him keep his house, 50 acres of farm land, and exempted him from all arrears of taxes and duties. The Government had responded favourably.

Mr Noel-Baker denies making such an offer. He said his tax liabilities stood at \$43,000. "That's ridiculous," he said.

The sun is barely one-twentieth of the taxable value of the forest as calculated by the Greek Authorities.

"I am quite prepared to give them one-twentieth of the forest for that sum, provided they give it to the village," he told The Times.

The action against Mr Noel-Baker was the culmination of an eight-year campaign against him on the ground that he supported the military junta which ruled Greece between 1967 and 1974. Trouble began in 1975 when a local "struggle committee" was set up in Prokopio, the village of "Achmetaga". It organized demonstrations, calling for the expulsion of the Noel-Bakers and the seizure of the estate.

In one incident, the crowds went on a rampage, burning estate buildings and desecrating family graves. Mr Noel-Baker dismissed the troubles as communist-inspired and denied he had collaborated with the junta on any but humanitarian grounds.

The then Conservative government, bending to popular pressure, challenged his land title and prohibited the exploitation of the forest or the farm, or its sale.

Mr Noel-Baker has appealed to the Greek courts against this ban, which, he maintains, is in violation of Community law against discrimination of nationals of other EEC countries.

Go-ahead for census in Germany

From Michael Blayton, Bonn

A national census, planned for last April but cancelled after objections had been lodged with the Constitutional Court, can go ahead, the court decided yesterday. But important changes had first to be made to stop any misuse of the information collected.

The court ruling was welcomed by the Government, which had fought hard to hold the controversial census, insisting it was essential if proper provision was to be made for West Germany's falling population. The Ministry of the Interior, which has given a warning of serious strains on social services, education and medical care because of the changing demographic profile, has said its estimates of the population could be out by up to a million.

The court said the Government was fully entitled to hold a census, the first since 1970, but could not pass on the information to other authorities.

Objections had centred on fears that the computer-processed answers could be used by the police, landlords and credit companies, and that confidential data would not be destroyed after use.

The Social Democrats, who called for a postponement of the census in the spring, said the judgment was an important step in strengthening privacy. The Greens, however, who led the move to boycott the census - which the Government threatened to punish with fines of up to DM10,000 (£2,500) for anyone refusing to fill in the forms - are unlikely to be mollified.

The questions the census will pose include those on religious affiliation, earnings, employment, housing and education. The Ministry of the Interior reckoned that the abortive April census would have cost DM371m, and needed 500,000 enumerators.

No enumerators would have been allowed to enter anyone's home, or disclose the answers they were given. But in Bavaria at least they would have been given a reward of DM2.50 for each German and DM5 for each foreigner they reported to the police whom they suspected to be either an unregistered citizen or illegal immigrant.

President Siles Plagued by political infighting

President Siles: Plagued by political infighting.

Cabinet quits in Bolivia

La Paz (Reuters) - The Bolivian Cabinet has resigned, after a 48-hour general strike paralysed the economy.

The Foreign Minister, Sr Jose Ortiz Mercado, told a press conference that the move was intended to allow the formation of a government of national unity and establish a political and economic truce.

In their letter of resignation to President Hernán Siles Zuazo on Wednesday night, the 18 ministers accused the opposition-dominated Senate of planning a "constitutional coup" against the left-wing Government.

They resigned after a stormy debate in the upper house, where centrist and right-wing senators called on the Government to justify severe austerity measures adopted last month, including a 60 per cent devaluation, which led to a 24-hour general strike on November 21 and this week's 48-hour stoppage.

The opposition accused the Government of violating the constitution and encroaching on the prerogatives of Parliament.

President Siles' administration, plagued by fighting and social unrest since coming to power more than a year ago, had earlier offered to reopen talks with Bolivia's main trade union to avert further strikes.

Spy-purged CIA unable to fight world terror

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The US needs to recruit more spies to help to combat the upsurge of terrorism in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, according to Admiral James Watkins, the Chief of Naval Operations.

Calling for a national strategy for dealing with terrorism, the admiral bemoaned what he described as "the emasculation of the human aspects of our intelligence service". Due to the lack of agents in the field, the US had been largely unprepared for recent events in Iran, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Grenada.

Admiral Watkins was referring to the purges in the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence services after the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam war. It has only been since the Reagan Administration took office that an attempt has been made to rebuild up the CIA's resources.

According to a senior Pentagon source, the intelligence operations of the United States

Knife attack on Tanaka's bitter rival

Nagasaki, Japan (Reuters) - A man brandishing a knife yesterday tried to stab Akiyuka Tanaka, the novelist campaigning against Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister, in the general election, police said.

Mr Tanaka, dubbed Japan's "Don Quixote" because he is running full tilt at corruption in high-society and trying to topple the country's most powerful politician, was unhurt.

Police said the man, with a mountaineer's knife tried to stab Mr Tanaka as he campaigned for Sunday's election in a market place. The attacker was overwhelmed by Mr Tanaka's aides and handed over to police.

The author, who is 58, is standing as an independent against Mr Tanaka. Commentators have described him as a political kamikaze pilot.

Police said the assailant admitted to interrogators that he wanted to wound Mr Tanaka.

Elsewhere in Japan, campaigning was non-violent but noisy. A further selection of opinion polls showed Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone's pro-Western, conservative Government was likely to preserve a stable majority in the 511-seat House of Representatives.

Salvador troops to join next US manoeuvres

By Alan Brinkley

The United States will hold a third round of troop manoeuvres in Central America next summer, according to military sources in Honduras.

The next exercises will involve fewer troops and there will be no "symbolic extravaganzas" like last month's amphibious landings which were the centrepiece of the Big Pine 2 manoeuvres, the sources said.

Big Pine 3 will be characterized by its regional flavour. Troops from El Salvador and possibly Guatemala will take part. Most of the 3,000 American soldiers in Honduras will have gone by March.

Meanwhile, Honduras is pressing for loans to spend another \$400m (£270m) on military equipment over the next four to five years.

Killer goes to electric chair after nine years

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

John Eldon Smith, whose wife persuaded him to kill his married couple, was put to death in the electric chair in Georgia yesterday. It was Georgia's first execution in 19 years and the eleventh in the United States since capital punishment was restored seven years ago.

Mr. Smith, aged 53, was executed hours after the Supreme Court in Washington voted by six to three to reject a final appeal. He had been convicted nine years ago of killing his wife's former husband and the husband's new wife in an attempt to collect insurance money.

A fellow-inmate of Georgia's condemned cells, Alpha Stephens, was spared from the electric chair nine hours before his scheduled execution this week after the supreme court voted by five to four to grant a stay. His lawyer, successfully raised the issue of racial discrimination in respect of the death penalty.

The question of race plays a considerable part in the long running controversy over capital punishment in America. It has been shown that a murderer is more likely to be sentenced to death if the victim is white rather than black. Mr Stephens is black, and had been convicted of killing a white man.

Abolitionists say that the carrying out of the death penalty is to some extent a lottery.

Offended Pertini gives back gift to Lévesque

From John Best, Ottawa

Incensed by some public comments made by Mr René Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, last week, President Pertini of Italy has returned a gift Mr Lévesque recently gave him.

The diplomatic contretemps originated when Mr Lévesque emerged from a private discussion with Signor Pertini in Rome last Friday, to tell reporters that the President did not have a "very high opinion" of Canada's federal Government.

He also said that Signor Pertini would make a point of by-passing the federal capital, Ottawa, if he visited Quebec next year, in connection with the French-speaking province's 450th anniversary celebrations.

After Mr Lévesque's remarks had appeared in print, the Italian Embassy in Ottawa issued a terse statement, saying that the premier's comments "do not correspond to the opinions expressed by President Pertini and must therefore be considered distortion."

Yesterday, the External Affairs Department, confirmed that Mr Ghislain Hardy, the Canadian Ambassador in Rome had been asked by Signor Pertini to return an honorary document Mr Lévesque had given him, providing free admission to all of all of Quebec's 450th anniversary special events.

The President accused Mr Lévesque of "falsely, and perversely interpreting" remarks made by him in the course of their private conversation.

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Chancery Division

Law Report December 16 1983

House of Lords

Guardian ordered to return official document

Secretary of State for Defence and Another v Guardian Newspapers Ltd
Before Mr Justice Scott

(Judgment delivered December 15)
His Lordship ordered the return to the plaintiffs, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Attorney General, of a photostatic copy of a document supplied to the defendants, Guardian Newspapers Ltd, by a person or persons unknown. The document was a copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr Headline, Secretary of State for Defence, for the Prime Minister, which the Guardian had published on October 31.

The Lordship held in the Chancery Division that section 10 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 had no application and that the defendant did not intend thereby to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have it returned to him.

Mr Simon D Brown for the Crown, Lord Rawlinson, QC and Mr Peter Prescott for Guardian Newspapers Ltd.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT said that on October 21, *The Guardian* published a document which they published in full on October 31 under the headline "Heseltine briefing to Thatcher of cruise timing". *The Guardian* did not know the identity of the person or persons who supplied it, nor how such person or persons obtained it. It was a photostatic copy of a memorandum dated October 20, prepared by the secretary of state for the Prime Minister. Copies were sent to the office of the Prime Minister and to certain other departments, each copy being individually marked so as to identify it from the others. The markings had been partly obliterated, but might suffice to identify from which of the original copies it was made.

Obviously the original memorandum and the original copies were the property of the Crown. It could not be doubted that the photostatic copy was supplied to *The Guardian* without any authority from the Crown. It was highly likely that the supply of the copy to *The Guardian* must have involved a breach of duty by some unidentified employee or officer within one or other of the Departments of State which received copies.

The Crown wished to identify the source of the leak and for that purpose was anxious to recover the document supplied to and still held by *The Guardian*, and asked for it to be returned. It was held that Lord Wilberforce in *British Steel Corporation v Granada Television Ltd* [1981] AC 1096, 1166.

That background to the 1981 Act provided no support for the view that Parliament intended by section 10 to interfere with the proprietary right of an owner of a document to have back his document.

Accordingly, in his Lordship's judgment, section 10 had no application to the present case and it followed that the defendants had no defence to the claim.

If his Lordship were wrong, *The Guardian* could only succeed if the court were satisfied disclosure was necessary in the interests of justice or national security or for the prevention of disorder or crime. That disclosure was necessary for the effect of disclosure, not to the effect of publication.

Lord Rawlinson had argued that the contents of the document, relating as it did to the tactics, parliamentary and political that the Government should adopt in regard to a missile in England of cruise missiles, was such that publication of it could not be said to have affected adversely national security. Mr Brown had accepted that point.

Mr Brown's national security point was otherwise based. He said, first, that there was someone in high places in government service who had leaked the document and that, whether in this instance harm was done, it was a matter of national security that he be exposed so that his potential harm in the future was removed.

Second, it was said that leakage of documents regarding nuclear missiles undermined confidence in the sufficiency of the security arrangements of Her Majesty's Government, and that other friendly governments might on that account be reluctant to share with us their secrets. Lord Rawlinson rejected both those points.

There was no need to go into his arguments in detail. Had section 10 applied, it would not, in his Lordship's judgment, have been right to have concluded that the defendants had no arguable defence.

As to Mr Brown's first point there was no real evidence of the class of persons who had access to those documents, nor was it a necessary inference that because some individual was prepared, in breach of duty and reprehensibly, to leak a document of that character, national security was required that he be identified and got rid of.

Second, the reaction of other Governments to a leak of that sort ought to be a matter of evidence, tested by cross-examination. His Lordship did not regard it as self-evident that they might react in the manner described.

This was not a case where unless an order was made at an interlocutory stage grave inconvenience or injustice would result. Accordingly had it come to that his Lordship would have left the plaintiffs to make out their case on national security at trial.

The plaintiffs had subsidiary points on interests of justice and prevention of disorder or crime, but his Lordship did not find anything in the untested evidence which satisfied him that those requirements were made out to a standard of certainty that would justify a summary order at this stage.

The Crown was entitled to the order sought, but his Lordship granted a stay until Friday evening, to allow an appeal.

Speeches delivered December 15)

Where groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work and there was a trade dispute between the employers and one of the unions, those workers who belonged to other unions were "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975 if the outcome of the dispute would be automatically applied "across the board" as a result of a collective agreement or established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

The House of Lords so held when allowing an appeal by the Social Security Commission from the decision of the Court of Appeal (*The Times* May 3, 1983) who allowed an appeal by the claimant, Mrs Kathleen Preshe, from the commissioner's dismissal of her appeal against the refusal of the local tribunal for Accrington and Rossendale to allow her claim for unemployment benefit from November 18 to 22, 1978.

Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Stephen Aitchison for the Department of Health and Social Security; Mr Benet Hytzer, QC and Mr John L. Hand for Mrs Preshe.

LORD BRANDON said that the claimant was in November 1978 employed by Brooke Bond Oxo Ltd

at its food factory at Great Harwood, Lancashire. During or following a short period when she was laid off work in consequence of an industrial dispute in which she was not herself a participant, she applied for unemployment benefit. The insurance officer refused her claim on the ground that, in the circumstances, she was disqualified by the relevant legislation from receiving such benefit.

The material facts were set out in the commissioner's decision: The claimant was at the material time employed as an instructor/maintenance worker in a production line at the factory. She was a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW). Also employed at the factory were 27 maintenance engineers who were members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

That union put in a demand for the phase 1 and phase 2 increases (under the pay policy then in force) to be consolidated into their basic wages which demand would, if conceded, presumably represent a financial improvement for them, in that over-time rates calculated on basic rates would thereby be increased.

The management of the factory did not feel able to concede that demand. A work-to-rule was imposed by the maintenance engineers. As a result of an alleged refusal by two engineers to do a particular job and their subsequent suspension, work came to a standstill at the factory.

On November 20, 1978 all 417 production workers were laid off, as machines were not being repaired. The stoppage of work ended on November 23, 1978, when work resumed in the factory, the terms of settlement being that pay negotiations would be brought forward to an earlier date in 1979 than had been originally contemplated.

Section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975, before amendment, provided: "A person who has lost employment as an employed earner by reason of a stoppage of work which was due to a trade dispute at his place of employment shall be disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit so long as the stoppage continues..." but his subsection does not apply in the case of a person who proves - (a) that he is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work; and (b) that he does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately before the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at his place of employment any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute.

The result of the amendment of that provision by section 111 (1) of the Employment Protection Act 1975 was that an employee, who was laid off by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of work employment was disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit unless he could prove (and the burden of proof was on him) two matters: first, that he was not participating, and, second, that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work.

In the present case it was common ground that the claimant did not participate in the trade dispute between the AUEW and the management. The sole question, therefore (remembering that the burden of proving the negative was on the claimant) was whether she was "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of that expression as used in section 19 (1).

In his Lordship's view, the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute", as used in section 19 (1) as amended, had to be given its ordinary and natural meaning in the context in which it occurred.

That context was that of situations arising out of industrial relations, including among other possible situations that of a trade dispute causing a stoppage of work at some factory or other place of work, at which different groups of workers, belonging to different trade unions, were employed by the same employers.

His Lordship would hold that, where different groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work, and there was a trade dispute between the common employers and one of the unions those workers belonging to other unions were directly, and not merely indirectly, interested in the trade dispute provided that two conditions were fulfilled.

The first was that, whatever might be the outcome of the trade dispute, it would be applied by the common employers not only to the group of workers belonging to the one union participating in the dispute, but also to the other groups

of workers belonging to the other unions concerned. The second was that application of the outcome of the dispute "across the board" should come about automatically as a result of one or other of three things: first, a collective agreement which was legally binding; or, second, a collective agreement which was not legally binding, or, third, established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

It was, in his Lordship's opinion, a pure question of fact whether, in any particular case, those two conditions were satisfied or not. It was, moreover, a question of fact of a kind which insurance officers, local tribunals and the commissioner were, by reason of their wide knowledge and experience of matters pertaining to industrial relations, exceptionally well qualified to answer.

In the present case the commissioner found as a fact that the two conditions were satisfied, in that the employers would, by reason of the factual situation at the factory, by which he clearly meant the established industrial custom and practice there, apply automatically the outcome of their dispute with AUEW to other groups of workers belonging to other unions at the same factory, including the group of workers belonging to USDAW, of which the claimant was one. It was not, and could not be with any chance of success, contended that there was no or insufficient evidence to support that finding of fact by the commissioner.

There appeared to be three important considerations which supported the approach adopted by his Lordship.

The first was that it accorded with that adopted since 1926 by a substantial number of social security commissioners (or their earlier equivalents) after the expression concerned had first appeared. Observations of the Court of Appeal in *R v National Insurance Commissioner, Ex parte Stratton* ([1979] QB 361, 369, 374) made it clear that, where there had been a consistent line of decisions in the field of national insurance by specialised tribunals over a large number of years, a court should be slow to depart from them.

His Lordship agreed with those observations and regarded them as applicable in the instant case.

The second consideration was that the approach adopted by his Lordship accorded substantially with the ratio decidendi of the majority judgment of the Court of Session in *Barry v Lord Advocate* (1979 SC 120).

The third consideration was that, if the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute" were to be given a narrower and more legalistic interpretation than his Lordship thought it right to give it, the way would be wide open for deliberate and calculated evasions of the basic provision of section 19 (1) as amended, with the result that the effectiveness of the subsection to achieve its manifest object would be much reduced.

Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser, Lord Keith and Lord Roskill agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, DHSS; Heston Erskine & Co.

When non-strikers are directly interested in trade dispute

Preshe v Department of Health and Social Security
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Roskill and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook

(Speeches delivered December 15)

Where groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work and there was a trade dispute between the employers and one of the unions, those workers who belonged to other unions were "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of section 19 (1) of the Social Security Act 1975 if the outcome of the dispute would be automatically applied "across the board" as a result of a collective agreement or established industrial custom and practice at the place of work concerned.

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The material facts were set out in the commissioner's decision: The claimant was at the material time employed as an instructor/maintenance worker in a production line at the factory. She was a member of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW). Also employed at the factory were 27 maintenance engineers who were members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

That union put in a demand for the phase 1 and phase 2 increases (under the pay policy then in force) to be consolidated into their basic wages which demand would, if conceded, presumably represent a financial improvement for them, in that over-time rates calculated on basic rates would thereby be increased.

The management of the factory did not feel able to concede that demand. A work-to-rule was imposed by the maintenance engineers. As a result of an alleged refusal by two engineers to do a particular job and their subsequent suspension, work came to a standstill at the factory.

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The result of the amendment of that provision by section 111 (1) of the Employment Protection Act 1975 was that an employee, who was laid off by reason of a stoppage of work due to a trade dispute at his place of work employment was disqualified for receiving unemployment benefit unless he could prove (and the burden of proof was on him) two matters: first, that he was not participating, and, second, that he was not directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work.

In the present case it was common ground that the claimant did not participate in the trade dispute between the AUEW and the management. The sole question, therefore (remembering that the burden of proving the negative was on the claimant) was whether she was "directly interested in the trade dispute" within the meaning of that expression as used in section 19 (1).

In his Lordship's view, the expression "directly interested in the trade dispute", as used in section 19 (1) as amended, had to be given its ordinary and natural meaning in the context in which it occurred.

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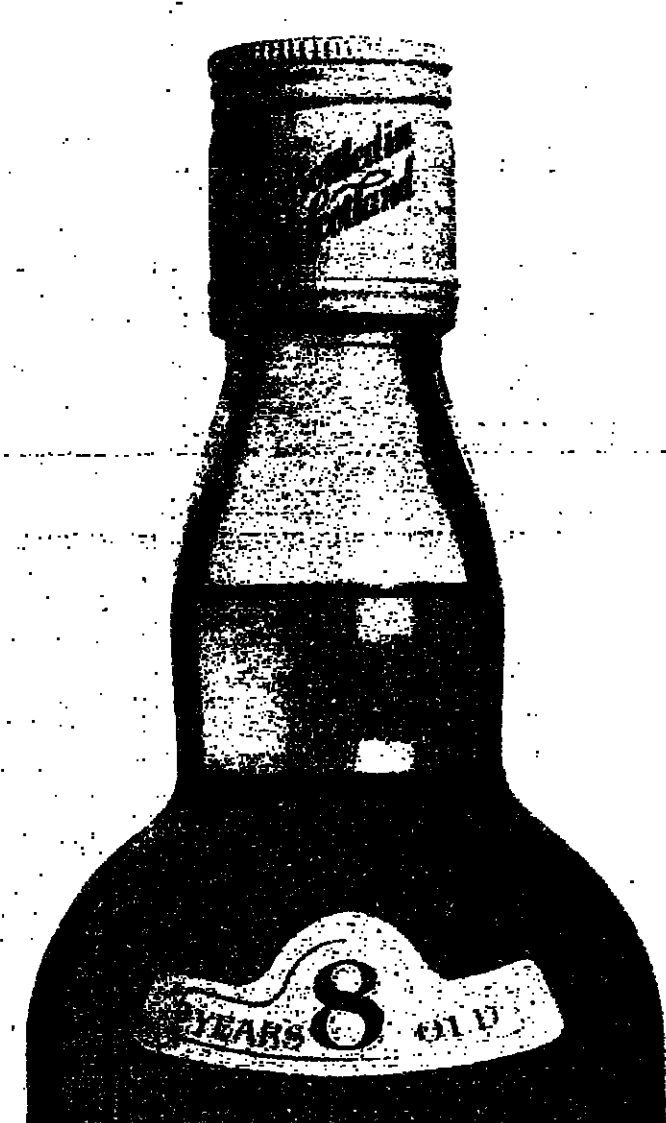
His Lordship would hold that, where different groups of workers belonging to different unions were employed by the same employers at the same place of work, and there was a trade dispute between the common employers and one of the unions those workers belonging to other unions were directly, and not merely indirectly, interested in the trade dispute provided that two conditions were fulfilled.

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It was, in his Lordship's opinion, a pure question of fact whether, in any particular case, those two conditions were satisfied or not. It was, moreover, a question of fact of a kind which insurance officers, local tribunals and the commissioner were, by reason of their wide knowledge and experience of matters pertaining to industrial relations, exceptionally well qualified to answer.

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Correction

The title of *R v Clerkwell Green Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, Ex parte Ibrahim* (*The Times* December 7) should have been *R v Clerkwell Green* etc.

THE ARTS

Cinema: David Robinson pays tribute to the genius of Max Linder (left), born 100 years ago today, and reviews new releases in London Treasurer of visual comedy



One hundred years ago today Gabrielle Linder was born in Saint-Louis, a little village near Bordeaux, where his parents were wine-growers. As Max Linder he was to become the first great international clown in the cinema. In the seven years preceding the First World War he achieved world-wide fame and popularity that were only to be exceeded by Charlie Chaplin. Yet today Linder is hardly remembered, at least outside his native France. When this year's London Film Festival showed *The Man in the Silk Hat*, the delightful biographical tribute by Linder's own daughter, it was the first opportunity for over half a century to see his masterpieces of comedy, but very few Londoners were curious enough to attend the show.

Linder was the only other comedian of silent films to establish a rapport and friendship with Chaplin, who called him "The Master" or "The Professor". Linder was established as a star even before Chaplin joined the Fred Karno music-hall comedy troupe, and his career was already on the wane by 1914 when Chaplin made his first films. In that time, however, Linder had built up a treasury of visual comedy which has continued to serve his successors - Chaplin included - down to the present day. It is hard to discover a comedy plot or a single gag that is not anticipated in the 500 or more short comedies of his prolific output.

Linder was the first to introduce comedy of character to the screen. Other comedians of his generation depended upon frenetic knockabout. The comedy of Linder's films, like that of Chaplin or any of the later great comedians, rises less from the inherent comedy-of-the-action than from his own responses to it. In Linder's case the humour lay in the contrast between the mad, disordered world he created around him and his own inextinguishable elegance and style. He was a grotesque, he was young, handsome, debonair, gay, immaculate (give or take an occasional tumb in a lake or soaking with a hose) in silk hat, frock coat, cravat, spats, patent shoes and swapper cane. He was gallant, and gallantry was generally his downfall for either his last friends demanded extravagant exploits, as proof of affection, or he was forced to desperate ruses to avoid large and jealous husbands.

The sophistication of his humour and technique were far ahead of their times. He revealed a distinctive camera sense even before he became his own director. In his first starring film, *Debussé*, *Le saltimbanque*, he manages, as his stunts, always to keep himself in perfect compositional relationship with the exquisite backgrounds of the frozen Lake Daumesnil. Called upon to turn out his films at the rate of one a week and sometimes one a day, he made imaginative use of whatever locations were available at hand: the Paris streets, Berlin squares and a Madrid *corrida* when he was on a theatrical tour of Europe; the Côte d'Azur or the ski slopes when he was snatching vacations; his family home when he was recuperating from one of the succession of illnesses that dogged him.



Norman Rossington: thunderous applause

Theatre Bungled burglary

Mother Goose Show

The second *Mother Goose* of the week is a slicker and better cast piece of work than the Watford version, with equal claims as a traditional pantomime. But, where Watford gave the story a local twist, the Shaw version simply takes events as they come, dragging the author (Myles Rudge) along in their wake.

But again, that lapses into a bungled burglary routine by the resident clowns (Jim Dunk and Clive Wood), incorporating an even feebler ghost routine. The book is full of empty pantomimic tricks (such as the obligatory "big Hello" for the most superfluous character), local ends and undeveloped ideas. Looking on the bright side, the show has a good score by John Gould that goes with a fine music-hall bounce and includes numbers, such as a recipe for eel stew, that lend themselves to witty chorus work. Ian Judge's production is at its best as a musical: bringing the conspirators together to defend their egg-grabbing as "All For the Public Good", and greeting the visitors to the North Pole with a chorus line of tap-dancing penguins.

On come the Prince of Darkness and his roughly benevolent opposite number (Joyce Grant) to select Mother Goose's cottage as their battleground, and you expect them to follow through with a plot hinging on human discontent. The Dame then rolls on in the person of a crinolined Norman Rossington who carries contentment to the point of simple-mindedness from her opening tumble off her tricycle to her hospitality towards an orphan on the day she is due for eviction by a limy Squire Bagshot.

Briefly granted his return to the rails when the Demon King, posing as a representative of the Wicked Landlords' Protection Society, advises the Squire to steal the golden goose and carry on with the eviction so as to erect a multi-storey car park. The story briefly returns to the rails when the Demon King, posing as a representative of the Wicked Landlords' Protection Society, advises the Squire to steal the golden goose and carry on with the eviction so as to erect a multi-storey car park.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Phoenix

"You said it was *Madrid*," complained a little boy stammering ahead of me into the stalls. "Well, it's *Snow White*," came the parent reply. "Now shut up!" Actually, this show is not too soppy for boys, and anyhow, what with wicked stepmothers disguised as beggar women and ennobled heroines awaiting a prince's kiss, it is hard to remember whether one is seeing *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Sleeping Beauty* or what. Dana is sweet, but she and "All kinds of everything" could be found anywhere - and so, frankly, could these cardboard sets, decidedly too tacky for the West End.

Then along come the seven dwarfs - apparently real ones - silhouetted and stomping over a bridge with lanterns glowing and Hi-to-noises. Their characterization has little chance to register but their mini-wellies do a rainbow collection from avocado to violet which junior audiences will probably clamour to buy. Apart from the sticking door (cue for good comic ad-libs), the cludding drop curtain did the painted well that got nudged aside to let the Dame's sedan chair off stage, my only real gripe is that the show's eye on the box office directs it at a telly-reared audience: electric guitar and percussion even for *Nutcracker* dances, and sassy chorus girls as seen on the box. Even Dame Doughtnut (Frankie Desmond) expects and gets the right reply for "Hi-de-hi", but he and Muddles (Mike Newman) have the uncanny rapport of a twinkling Paddy and a rouged old cabbage in camiknickers as they bat balls of dough round the house - till everyone winces. Entering with "Happy Talk" (with blissful incongruity), Dana relaxes into her young audience's vociferous reactions and registers innocent alarm by turning her palms outward as though testing wind resistance prior to takeoff. Barbara Halliwell's Wicked Queen makes her mark with her chandelier-shattering cackle but the upstaging prize must go to the little red-suited girl, unwisely beckoned on, who peered self-possessedly towards the wings, waved at friends in the audience, and when invited to name herself bashfully wiped her nose with the back of her hand.

Advertisement for Sadler's Wells Theatre Christmas Season 29 December - 14 January. Includes showtimes and ticket information.

Concerts

excitement in the work showed, as it should, in his recognition that here was life set in motion by the rhythms of colour itself. If the weakness it was, indeed, in the sometimes oversharp definition of orchestral counterpoint in narrative which is never quite so explicit as it may seem. But time and again one had to wonder at moments such as when the oboe, as Melisande, feels its way through the cello, *Golaad's* horn. Or at the playful seduction of the violins by the flute, at the strange menacing aether of flutes, solo cello and harp; at the voracious sense of self-perpetuation in which the entire orchestra is taken up, for the last time in Schoenberg.

Television Firing line

To those who watched Monday's *Horizon*, in which FBI marksmen learnt gleefully to hit the "centre mass" between their targets' armpits, last night's TV Eye (ITV) will have seemed endearingly homespun. "Where's that first live round?" an officer asked a volunteer hoping to join the 5,000 authorized shots in the Metropolitan Police. The room was not where it should have been. "Oh my God," said the officer, with a mock-desperate laugh. Selection methods for this elite group were, according to one new entrant, inevitably "a bit and miss affair". Well, yes and no. The programme had begun with a convincingly wet and confused re-enactment of the shooting of Stephen Waldorf, who was seen coaching the actor in their nasty, short and brutish parts. "We were frightened," said one of the actor-politicians, explaining his near-fatal mistake. One of Scotland Yard's top men indicated that psychological testing would soon form part of their selection procedures; a retired superintendent, from Yorkshire suggested that training courses should have such stresses built into them as would "make a man break if he's going to". Mr Waldorf, who made a personal appearance at the critics' preview, described the reconstruction as a "very fair portrayal of what had happened to him, and added that the dramatization had helped him get something out of his system. No reviewer could argue with that.

Hilary Finch

Both solists were at first rather disappointing, and did not project their phrases at all convincingly. In time they merged into the foreground, however, and gave a very fine account of the first movement's cadenza. The central Andante was far more consistent, and the solists' was a beautiful conversation indeed. Though always considerable, their expressive intensity was varied with much discretion. We finally heard Mr Accardo's masterly violin playing in Mozart's rather lengthy "Hafner" Serenade, K269, which he again conducted. He proved to be stylish in both roles, and shaped the adventurous development section of the first movement with considerable insight. And soon afterwards there was some nearly sublime solo violin playing.

Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Accardo

Founded in 1981, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe is an international body with many British-looking names. On Wednesday evening it showed itself to be an ensemble of very high calibre, and in the opening Andante of Mozart's Divertimento, K137, the strings produced a tone that was beautifully smooth and light but also acutely expressive. They were acutely responsive as well to Salvatore Accardo's batonless direction. The bounding central movement entailed no loss of refinement: in fact the nuances were almost as detailed. Several dynamic levels were clearly

Wonderful Quartet

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Dance

violin, suddenly Tharp goes all balletic. This is no more real ballet than the dancers' elegant *deshabille* (by Santo Loquasto, all in white) is real ballet costumes. There are some real ballet steps there on stage, but, as I see it, the intention is to provide a personal equivalent of the lightness, formality and grace of ballet, since that suits this music, but to do it without following ballet's conventions. *Telemann* is all delicacy and playfulness; *Nine Sinatra Songs* is sheer razzmatazz in the most glamorous of three handsome settings that are created almost entirely by Jennifer Tipton's superb lighting. The music is actually eight songs and a reprise, cunningly shaped for maximum impact. You start with three duets in a row, each with different dancers, then bring the three couples together for a pseudo-finale to "My Way". After that, start all over with another one, two, three, four couples, building from one climax to another and how can you miss when everyone comes back, again to "My Way". The dancers look stunning (pretty dresses and dinner jackets), the choreography is witty, sexy and stunning by turns (sometimes all at once), and the effect is as if all those half-remembered, marvellous old movies had come to life.

Wynia Tharp

That was a particularly apt start because his way with a song is very much Tharp's way with a dance. They take something standard and give it an individual twist so that it comes up looking quite different. In *Sue's Leg*, the dance style in related to disco dancing, but it would be an unusual disco that attracted dancers with the flair and personality of Jennifer Waye, Tom Rawe and Raymond Kurbash, not to mention Tharp herself. Besides which, there is the point that within the deceptive, by casual ease of it all you actually get bits of tap, vaudeville and other skills thrown in. Then for *Telemann*, to that composer's *Concerto in E major* for flute, oboe d'amore and

Vienna PO/Mehta

This year's homage to Webern, focused in the Olivetti International Webern Cycle, was caught up in Wednesday's closing concert in one of the most boldly-etched Janus faces of all, Schoenberg's *Pelleas and Melisande*. The work, which was first performed in the year in which Schoenberg began to teach Webern, and which inspired his own *Pelleas*, was an intriguing choice for finale, and all the more so for the Vienna Philharmonic's vital and intensely committed performance. Zubin Mehta's own evident

Williams/Williamson

One could argue that the piano duo is for the twentieth century what the string quartet was for the late eighteenth: a natural, neutral medium in which to think musically. So it seemed on Wednesday night when Keith Williams and Clive Williamson gave a splendidly alive recital of the works from the last 20 years, all three taking up the invitation and the challenge to peculiarly powerful trials: Ligeti's *Monument* triptych, Bernd Alois Zimmermann's *Monodie* and Roger Smalley's *Accord*. Nowhere, though, did intensity of thought drive away beauty of sound, partly because the pieces are made that way, partly because Mr Williams and Mr Williamson are both warm and colourful musicians as well as expert craftsmen.

John Percival

This was at once apparent in the *Ligeti*, which was almost shockingly lovely after the steady, snappish interpretation of the Kontarski brothers familiar on record. The mechanical severity of the first movement lapsed more rapidly into a mirage, and the work appeared to fit its filament rather than its dissolution, in the finale, where previous events are put under water and wobbled. The Zimmermann performance was also revelatory, concerning the general feeling that his music has become more

Never Say Never Again (PG)

Warner 4; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue; Studio Oxford Circus; Classics Haymarket, Tottenham Court Road

Jaws 3D (PG)

Then again there is the reassurance of old times' sake. Sean Connery (after his own protestations of never again) is back, looking hardly a day older or thicker, and still outclassing every other exponent of the role, in the godfathered throwaway which he carries all the sex and violence on the way. The story recycles *Thunderball*, in which Connery starred 18 years ago; but Lorenzo Semple Jr's script is a rather monotonous switchback with Bond alternately placed in fixes and then ingeniously or violently extri-

Dance

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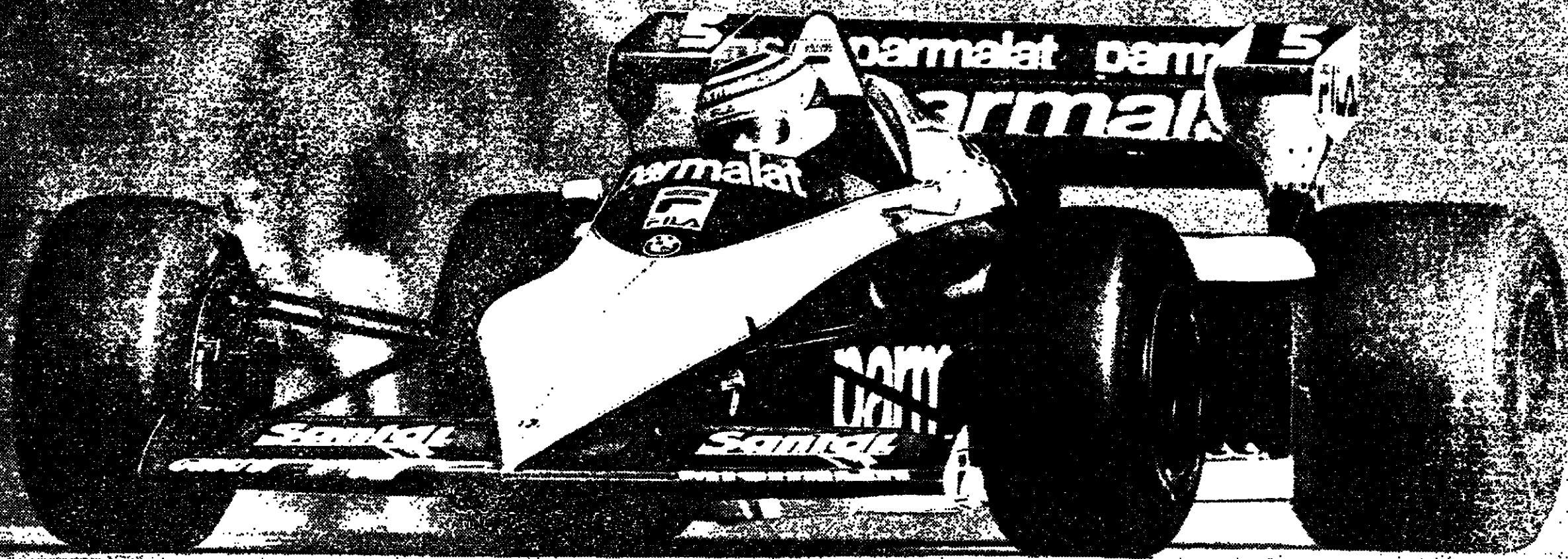
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Gen next to its contin... It sand years ductio impor comp All impor West- presser Mr and Vauel a int inces comp Port, a sec mont secon Luton... Mf... Vau... Be 50... Pe... in t... Vau... in B... wha... impo... cou... Dance... Wyla Tharp... Sadler's Wells... Talk about jet-setting: last week Wyla Tharp's company was evading in Rome, while the pa-American Ballet Theatre with Baryshnikov premiered Tharp's *Sinatra Suite* in Washington. Now Tharp and her dancers are at Sadler's Wells, where *Nine Sinatra Songs* (which was the starting point of the new *Sinatra Suite*) was the big hit of Wednesday night's opening. The bill also included another world premiere in quite a different mode, *Telemann*, and for starters *Sue's Leg*, danced to songs by Fats Waller. That was a particularly apt start because his way with a song is very much Tharp's way with a dance. They take something standard and give it an individual twist so that it comes up looking quite different. In *Sue's Leg*, the dance style in related to disco dancing, but it would be an unusual disco that attracted dancers with the flair and personality of Jennifer Waye, Tom Rawe and Raymond Kurbash, not to mention Tharp herself. Besides which, there is the point that within the deceptive, by casual ease of it all you actually get bits of tap, vaudeville and other skills thrown in. Then for *Telemann*, to that composer's *Concerto in E major* for flute, oboe d'amore and

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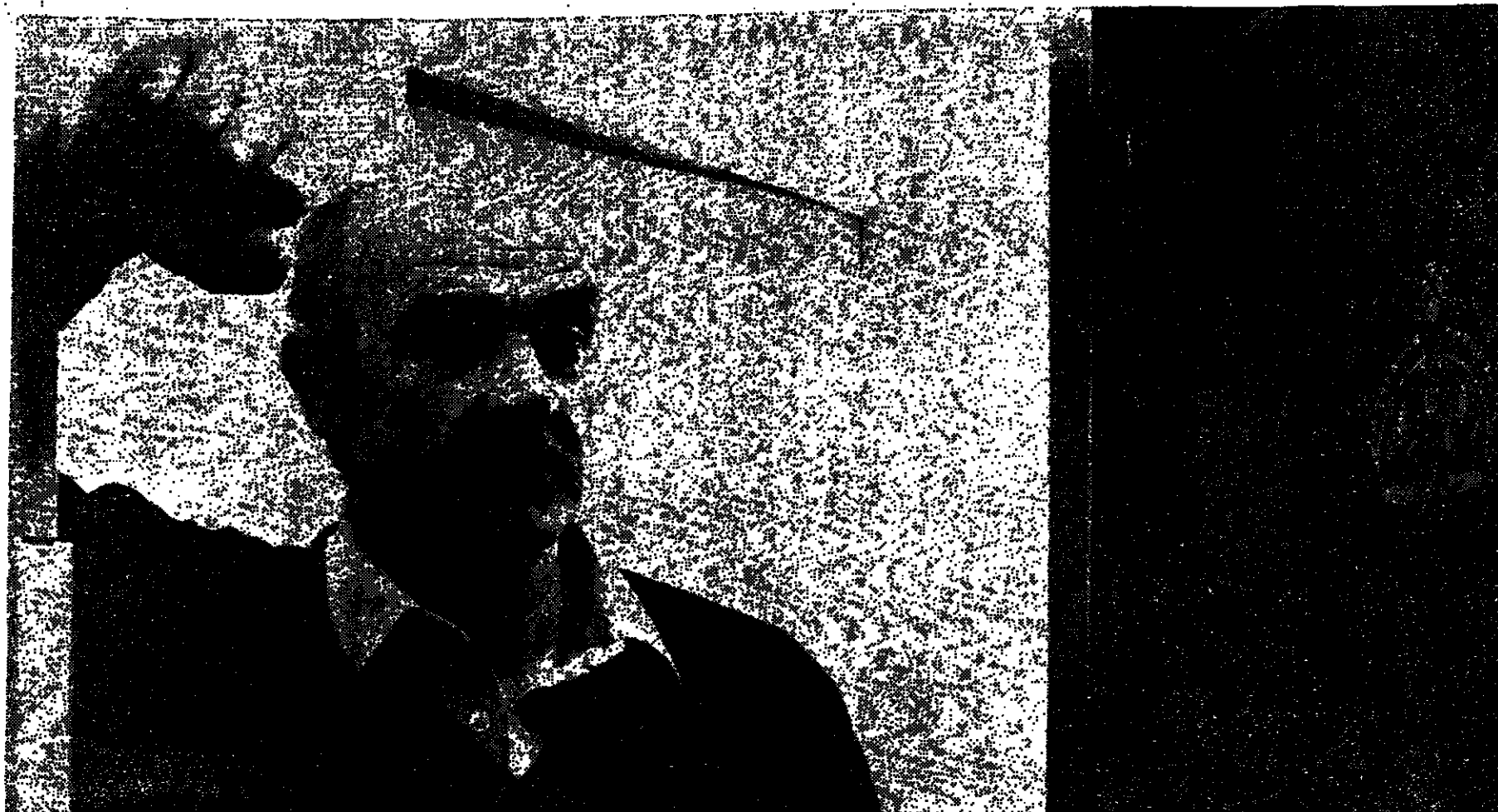
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Sex, sadism and . . . shrewdness

Actor Sean Connery is best known for his role as James Bond, Ian Fleming's suave, cool secret agent. But the Bond image is a far cry from the star's early life in an Edinburgh tenement. Duncan Fallowell talks to Connery as his new Bond film opens in Britain



Sean Connery: "I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone" (Photograph by Brian Harris)

This interview is short and fast, bright and early in the George V Suite at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. Sean Connery is wearing a green Bahamas Golf Club sweater. The Bahamas and Marbella are alternately "home". But Mr Connery is a shrewd Scot - the legal address is Monte Carlo.

What's his next film going to be? "I've no idea. I've acquired a whole batch of stuff I want to read. I haven't read anything in a long time. I've been doing things like 30-hour flights from Australia. You can't concentrate if you do things like that." Who's his favourite actor? "Unfortunately he died. Sir Ralph Richardson." Actress? "Um... I adore Katherine Hepburn."

Nothing very idiosyncratic so far. Connery conveys a tremendous impression of reliability both as man and star. His impact is larger than life. Or is it less than life, this giant certainly unencumbered by neurosis, this temperament whose most exotic obsession is golf? What are his weaknesses as an individual? "The real skill in dealing with major problems in relationships is to be able to un-know something about someone. You know something about a producer, say. To un-know it so that it doesn't get in the way of the main issue, that kind of detachment, I find it awfully difficult."

Well, here's an American question connected with that: has being famous made him a nicer person?

"I think I can say I've never maliciously done anything to anyone, if I have any religion or philosophy it's that I'd rather leave the place at least the same, if not better, having been here. And I have no desire to treat people any other way than I would like to be treated myself."

The Connery Code is a pretty strict one but, honed in a northern climate, it comes naturally to him. He doesn't smoke. He doesn't like bunglers or smart alecs or inefficiency of any kind. He goes straight from the film set to the golf course to the marital bed with hardly any deviations en route except, perhaps, for a sensible meal. But he isn't a cold person, at least not with strangers, so what's his idea of a good party?

"No more than six or eight people. Oh, that's not always true - we had a very good party, more or less by accident, when we were filming in London and I had an apartment in Lennox Gardens, just behind Harrods there. I just decided to have a few people round and it coincided with people coming into town - Michael

was coming in - Michael and Shkira... yes, Caine. Roger was there - Roger Moore, that is - and Albert Finney and Diana Quick - and James Hunt and his dog Oscar - and Jackie - Jackie Stewart, with his wife, and Barbara was there with the guy she's now married to, Barbara Carrera, and Michael Medwin - none of us had seen each other for a wee while and it went on and on, nobody wanted to go. It was marvellous. That's what a party's all about - timing. Otherwise I like a dinner where there's at least two people who don't quite get on."

When was the last time you were drunk?

The Connery Code, honed in a northern climate

"Oh, just the other night actually, I like Scotch. I'm going back a bit to beer now, too."

How many children do you have? The files give different numbers.

"That's because I inherited some. When I married Diane Cilento she already had a daughter. Then we had Jason, who's my only child." Divorced 1973. "My present wife has from a previous marriage two sons and a daughter, and the daughter has two daughters." He married Micheline in 1976. She is Moroccan. They met at a golf tournament in Mohamaha, Morocco. Connery won the men's title, she the women's.

Have you enjoyed being a father?

"... Yes. One could have been better. Coming late to a choice of career, not marrying until late, the showbusiness lifestyle, the need for domestic help, got in the way somewhat."

Your own home as a child - was it warm and welcoming?

"No. It was very austere. So one really spent as much time as possible out in the streets."

Connery is an intelligent man, but one drawn in broad, simple strokes with any oddities ruthlessly edited out as soon as he was sufficiently rich and famous to become uncompromisingly non-eccentric. But the granite line begins early, in 1930 when he was born into a poor Edinburgh household and given the name Thomas: father a lorry driver, mother a charlady, his cot a wardrobe drawer, his bedroom later the kitchen, tin baths in front of the fire, a lavatory shared by 12 families on the tenement staircase.

At nine he started work delivering milk before school. At 13 he left school and became a full-time milkman. At 17 he went into the Royal Navy - discharged three years later with ulcers. Subsequent jobs included lorry driver, cement mixer, bricklayer, steel bender, coffin polisher.

Then more curious and narcissistic influences came into play. He became a lifeguard at a swimming pool, took up body building, became an artist's model where he learned to relax while displaying himself - excellent training for a star whose key quality would always be physical presence. Connery represented Scotland in a Mr Universe competition (bronze medal) in London, where a friend playing in the musical *South Pacific* said there was a vacancy in the chorus. On impulse Connery applied and got it. He decided to become an actor.

Although Tom became Sean in 1951, stardom wasn't as immediate. His first break was in a television play in 1956 - a 20th Century Fox contract and string of B films followed. "I'll do anything I can get my hands on," he said to Patricia Lewis in her "Confidentially" column in the *New Chronicle* in 1957. What he describes as the "prostitution phase" of his life ended in 1962 with the appearance of the first Bond, *Dr No*.

If he was a lad in Edinburgh now,

unemployed, no future, what would he do?

"It's desperate, I know. I've been up there. As you'll note, I was able to get into the work ethic very early. What happens now, I don't know..."

Now for a few questions about sex. Connery is known to resent too-direct questions about his personal life, but he doesn't flinch. First, how did he discover the facts of life?

"Oh well, where I was born they were all messing around from the ages of seven and eight onwards in this big tenement building. It was impossible to not discover the facts of life. And there's a great puritan streak in Scotland which of course immediately intrigued the children - you wanted to know all about what was so terrible."

Can you remember your first experience of a woman?

"The decisive encounter was - we used to have air-raid shelters underground because the war was still on, I expect they're all filled in now - and I was walking along and was followed by an ATS woman and I was what, 14 years old I suppose, just left school. We ended up down in the air-raid shelters. A lot of things started in those shelters. This one was full of water, I remember, with planks and duckboards to walk on."

In a 1961 interview he said: "I don't

I have a chance to play out the fantasies

think there's anything very wrong about hitting a woman. I don't though, recommend hitting a woman the way you hit a man." Would he still go along with that?

"Oh, yes, I still go along with that."

Generally speaking, would you call yourself a romantic? James Bond definitely is. In fact it is probably Bond's most amiable characteristic.

"No, I'm not."

He is a very masculine man - what is feminine in his character? For the first time the composure shudders. A glance of suspicion shoots out the side of his face, that famous suspicion which has battled journalists and producers alike, always on guard against being exploited, taken for a ride, used. He still attacks the exploiters, rather pointlessly since he's as rich as any. It is the puritanism again, informed by a slightly left wing sympathy. But actors are made to be used and, if they want to be stars, exploitation of their qualities is essential.

"I don't know. I'm not very good at reading my feminine side. You'll probably have to ask my wife... I don't see myself as macho as the image. It's something that got built up."

One of the specific mistakes in *Never Say Never Again* is to put Connery into a toupée again. It ages him terribly. He looks much better without it. What's good about getting older?

"I'll can't think of too many things, actually. A Muslim Moroccan friend of my wife's says the thing to do is to acquire wisdom, that the real pleasure of getting older is to become wiser. I have flashes of what I take to be wisdom, but on the whole I don't seem to learn a great deal. I went through that phase of the *I Ching*. Ouspensky's *In Search Of The Miraculous*, Gurdjieff, *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, you know. At the end of the day, it's not dissimilar to what's in the Bible."

Life's been good to him, on the whole. Has he had to pay a price, has he known any extreme unhappiness?

"No. I think the job has given me a chance to play out the fantasies, the kind of stuff which might well otherwise build up inside. When I was young I was very anxious and tense, though. My ulcers started at 16. But acting released this. I never want to go back to that again."

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moreover... Miles Kingston

The Last Post at Christmas

Wayside Pulpit, by the Totally Reverend Phil Marsh, Chaplain to the TUC

I read the other day in the paper that it was already too late to send Christmas cards to people beginning with "Z" in Buenos Aires.

Maybe those weren't the exact details. But that was the general idea.

And it made me very sad.

Somewhere in an Argentine suburb sits someone called Alberto Zarzuela (let us say) who is condemned to receive no Christmas cards from us in Britain. A printer, perhaps, whose livelihood is threatened by the draconian laws enacted by the late military junta. How do we feel about this?

I know how I feel.

I feel that draconian is a funny word. People use it all the time without knowing what it means. I know I do. So today I am going to look it up in the dictionary.

Well, well, what do you know? Draco is the name of a faint constellation in the sky. So that is what it comes from.

No, hold on. Draco was also the name of an Athenian lawgiver who made almost everything punishable by death. So draconian law, they say, is "harsh".

I'll say.

I had no idea that it was punishable by death to form a closed shop of printers. No wonder our lads are out in force at Warrington. No wonder Alberto Zarzuela is feeling a bit apprehensive in sunny Argentina. Every Christmas card he receives is printed by a man who may have been taken out and shot by the time he gets it.

Makes you think, doesn't it?

Little did William Caxton think when he first used moveable type that his successors would be flocking to Warrington to safeguard their very lives. If he had known, do you think he would have joined them?

I doubt it.

In those days Warrington was but a tiny hamlet between Macclesfield and Liverpool, neither of which existed. Will Caxton and his merry band of flying pickets would have looked right twists descending on three cottages and shouting "Reinstate ye Warrington sixes!" I doubt that there were six in Warrington to reinstate.

And yet the principle is absolutely correct. Jesus says in the Bible (TUC version): "Blessed are the solid, for they shall get their just demands. Behold, I have been to my executive, and my executive is with me on this one."

What did He mean by this?

I think He meant that Alberto Zarzuela is depending on every one of us to stick by him this Christmas tide, to send him Christmas cards even if they arrive late. Behold, there were printers in the field to whom the angel appeared saying, "Have you got my card sheet ready yet? And they made reply saying, 'This is our busiest period, you will have to wait like everyone else. For unto us a son is born' (2:8), down the right wing and scored and bring to the table piping hot (continued page 67). Late result: Wrexham 0, Hymn 564.

I wonder what this means?

Blow me if I know.

And yet one thing I do know, because I have just looked it up in my Spanish dictionary, Zarzuela means "musical drama". Pantomime, perhaps? Do they also at this season have in Buenos Aires an extended run of "Ali Baba y los cuarenta ladrones"? Or "Ricardo Whittington", going on till March 3, if the new government lasts that long?

Impossible to tell. So let us, at this time of year, turn our thoughts finally to a stable in Bethlehem, where inside the oxen and ass are warm and comfortable, and outside a line of freezing photographers waits in the cold. It's a hard life being a press photographer, waiting for something that may never happen, peering through frozen keyholes and breaking down doors with their bare hands.

I believe the Italians call them paparazzi.

I wonder why?

Unfortunately, I haven't got an Italian dictionary.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 225)

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- ACROSS
- Deftly (7)
 - Colourless body fluid (5)
 - Egg cells (3)
 - Confound (7)
 - Employees' documents (5)
 - Anti aircraft fire (4)
 - Sea lavender (7)
 - Rig dipper (6,7)
 - Unswayed (7)
 - Smack (4)
 - Birds' resting place (5)
 - Ice hockey start (4,3)
 - Ingest (3)
 - Speak (5)
 - Grover (7)
- DOWN
- Counterpart (4)
 - Constrain (5)
 - Finger weapon (7,6)
 - Extinct birds (5)
 - Idle (13)
 - Marx follower (7)
 - Law (8)
 - Elaborate dress (8)
 - Prevent from eating (4,3)
 - Lifts (5)
 - Assume (5)
 - From a distance (4)

SOLUTION TO No 224
 ACROSS: 1 Pastor 5 Blotch 8 ETA 9 Ushasp
 10 Safari 11 Plus 12 Occupant 14 Code of conduct 17 Postpone 19 Gibe 21 Copying
 23 Signal 24 Acc 25 Bodkin 26 Exempt
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 6 Off 7 Chronic 13 Pedagogue 15 Oloroso
 16 Oversee 18 Organ 20 Bleep 22 Elk

Keeping alive the pioneering spirit

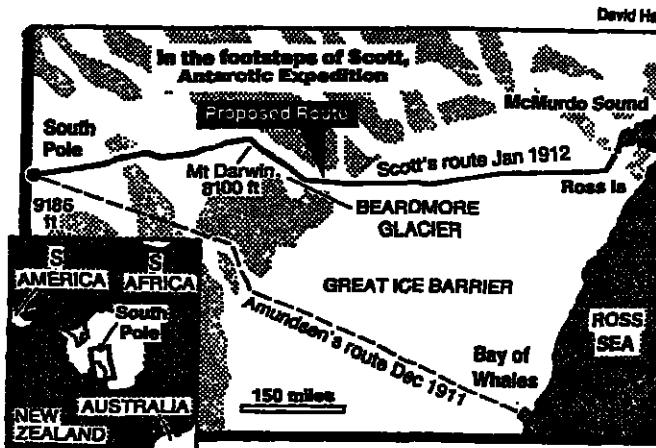
In a timely antidote to recent ballyhoo surrounding polar expeditions, two young Britons are putting the finishing touches to an ambitious plan by which they will become the first men to haul a sledge unaided to the South Pole. It is not, they say, an expedition of discovery so much as one of rediscovery; indeed, they have given it the title "In the Footsteps of Scott".

Robert Swan, aged 27, and Roger Mear, 32, plan to set out for the Pole in October, 1985. By a quirk of fate, a French expedition using dogs will repeat Amundsen's journey at the same time. The celebrated race to the Pole of 1911 between Scott and Amundsen will therefore, in a way, be re-created.

The men's motivation is refreshing. Swan, the leader, emphasizes their deep respect both for the past and for the fragile Antarctic environment. They have disdained travel by vehicle or resupply by air-drop, which would have rendered the journey unremarkable: when they reach their destination, however, they will be lifted out on one of the regular flights from the US base at the Pole.

Committed conservationists, they wish to draw attention to Antarctica's great assets: its isolation and beauty. "I could not go to the Pole on a conservation ticket sitting on a machine", Swan says. "Let's go back and achieve a journey that gives us and others a sense of the old spirit of polar exploration."

To the suggestion that they will only be completing half of Scott's journey, and the easier half at that, Swan explains that Scott had taken support parties to within 170 miles of the Pole: they will take none. This will make their loads heavier, a brutal 300lbs per man at the start, reducing by 5lbs a day as food and fuel are consumed.



A 75-day journey in the footsteps of Captain Scott

miles of relatively flat barrier. When they reach the foot of the Beardmore glacier, loads will still be a daunting 200lbs. Ten days of herculean and dangerous effort should get them up the glacier and on to the polar plateau, where 350 miles will separate them from the Pole. They plan to take 75 days in all.

It is fascinating to compare the changes wrought by the passage of 74 years. I asked Swan what psychological advantages he had over his famous predecessor. "We now have no fear of scurvy", he replied. "Neither do we fear isolation."

Scurvy was the bane of expeditions until vitamins were discovered just after Scott's time. General nutrition has also much improved. For instance, Scott's daily ration, mainly of pemmican and biscuits, weighed 2lbs 3ozs and gave 4,430 calories. Swan's will weigh 1lb 15ozs to produce 5,271 calories.

The radio has banished much of the anxiety of isolation. The pioneers made their decisions and their lives then depended on their sound judgment. Swan, on the insistence of the Americans who would be responsible for search and rescue, will take a radio. He can

stronger and better. Scott's reindeer-skin sleeping bag weighed 15lbs and iced up dangerously. The modern down-filled bag is warmer and weighs about 6lbs. Scott took an 11lbs pick axe. Swan will have a telescopic ski pole/ice axe weighing 3lbs. And this story is repeated with every item of equipment.

Mountaineers consider a pair of men to be at a hazard on a glacier because if one falls into a crevasse the other cannot physically haul him out. Swan and Mear will be at particular risk on the fearsome Beardmore glacier. Crevasse rescue techniques have much improved, however, and they have some ingenious braking devices on their sledges to ensure that, if one man falls in, the other should not be dragged down also.

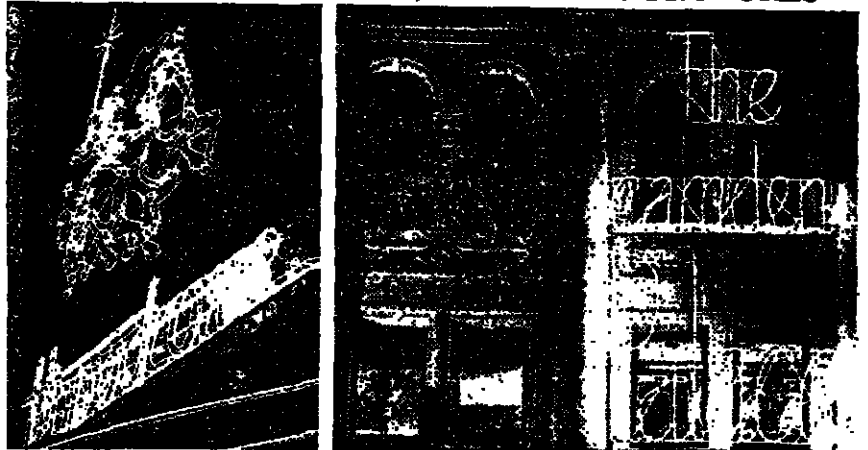
To keep costs down, the expedition will be conveyed to and from Antarctica by an Australian-manned yacht. Even so, the project will cost some £324,000 - a modest budget compared, for instance, with the £4m for the Finnes Trans-Globe spectacular. In the course of the expedition the yacht will circumnavigate the globe and it will be sold on completion to reduce the budget. There will be a total of seven expedition members in addition to the yacht's crew.

Sir Peter Scott, son of Captain Scott, is the expedition's patron. He particularly welcomes the way in which it will draw attention to the now urgent problem of the conservation of Antarctica. I suspect that he will also welcome the attitude of respect for his father that the venture reflects, in contrast to the hatchet job done on his reputation by the recent book *Scott and Amundsen*.

Mike Banks
 The author is an explorer and mountaineer and holder of the Polar medal.

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



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- PLUS: News from home and abroad; Gardening; Video review; Wines for the big day; Country Diary on the agrishusiness of East Angles; Bridge; Chess; Family Life with a checklist for Christmas; a critical guide to the arts; Collecting on modelling in wax; Tommy Trinder's return

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FRIDAY PAGE

COMMENT

Long time on short list

I have just completed the current school headship circuit. By the end I had accepted my status as the statutory woman on a short list, or indeed often on the long list. The comments of male colleagues reveal a marked enthusiasm for the presence of females in the management team, combined with a despair at the paucity and relative lack of qualifications of such applicants.

In January 1982 there were 3,307 male secondary heads and 656 female secondary heads in maintained schools in England. The figures are undisputed. In today's social climate this is serious. First, current correspondence suggests a growing concern at the lack of outstanding applicants for top educational jobs; in which case artificial barriers hindering more than 50 per cent of teaching staff are fully deserved. It is therefore unacceptable to hinder the access of one particular group to top posts on entirely irrelevant grounds. Third, the hidden influence of the institutional power structure on the present generation of students has serious connotations. Fourth, changing social conventions mean that many women will become the breadwinners and therefore should certainly have fair access to more senior positions.

The reasons for this disparity in achievement are both practical and psychological. The overwhelming disadvantage of the majority of women is their immobility. Most are married and cannot leave their husbands' area of work. The clogging up of the promotional ladder, consequent on declining rolls, has meant that movement is almost essential for promotion. The effect of motherhood on career prospects is seriously underestimated, despite lip service to its value as an experience. The physical effects of childbirth are often not emphasized. We suffer the worst maternity provisions in Western Europe, except for the Irish Republic. There is no guarantee of part-time work during the early years of motherhood by the sole female member of senior and middle management in a sixth-form college. All the heads of department - apart from Home Economics - were male. The stress was considerable.

What do we do? First, every LEA should circulate the relevant statistics. There is nothing like hard fact in fighting any case. Second, those shortlisting for any senior appointment (Scale 111 upwards) should give clearly formulated reasons for an entirely male shortlist. Third, every LEA should mount in-service training sessions - organized by women for their female teachers. Fourth, requirements are more fundamental and include changes in our outdated maternity provisions and the Victorian assumptions of our tax and benefit laws.

For years we have accepted the philosophy that deprivation stemming from class and race must be rectified by positive action. Even the traditionally liberal minded jib at a similar stance on sex.

Geraldine Evans
The author is principal of King George V College, Southampton.

Much ado about cartoons

Helen Mason on the rivalry over a race to publish artists' versions of Shakespeare

When *Macbeth* in cartoon strip form was introduced to an astounded public last year there were many, including scholars, purists, and publishers who had turned the work down, who believed there was no market for such an outrageous product. They were all wrong. Not only is there a market, but also there is considerable rivalry to corner it. This month, with *Macbeth* still in shape and size and all use first folio texts, there are two more cartoon books on sale.

The cartoon classics were the brainchild of artist Von, who has produced a version of *Romeo and Juliet* (pictured right) which has reached the book shops only days before a cartoon version of *Othello*. To the public, all three cartoons look like part of a series, with variations only in price. They are identical in shape and size and all use first folio texts. But in fact they come from different publishers.

Von's first illustrated play, *Macbeth*, was neglected for three years until it was spotted by Anne Tauté, who created *Oval Projects* in order to publish it. But Von's subsequent version of *Romeo and Juliet* was published by Michael Joseph. *Oval Projects*' second Shakespeare cartoon was drawn by Oscar Zarate.

Both publishers intend to produce more plays and such rivalry must amaze all who doubted that comic book Shakespeare was a commercial proposition. Publishers who rejected *Macbeth* invariably asked: "Who is it aimed at?" Scholars would disdain the unsuitable format, they said, while comic book devotees would be dismayed by the full text. But *Macbeth* was bought by children as well as adults, and often by parents and teachers. It is a success.

If the race is taken the full length of all 37 plays, the odds are on Anne Tauté to win. She has more runners in the field. Michael Joseph intend to put all their money on Von, but *Oval Projects* will use a different artist for each play.

Von, who estimates it costs him £15,000 to produce the artwork for a play, started to sell the idea halfway through the recession. He took on a business partner in a venture calling for faith - it was three years before they sold *Macbeth*. Anne Tauté had faith. She saw the artwork in New York and mortgaged her house, sold



everything she could and formed a company, *Oval Projects*, to publish it.

The legal action which briefly and dramatically stopped the presses as *Macbeth* was being printed in Hongkong was the first public intimation of a rift between the two. Anne Tauté still cannot speak of the event without her voice rising in bewilderment. "I don't understand - I never will understand," she told me. "We were at the eleventh hour and I was in Hongkong when we got an injunction to stop printing."

Von, who recalls the scene with more languor, claims he and his partner sought the injunction because they were concerned about the quality of printing. He told me disarmingly last week that one motive for going to court was to force a meeting with Anne Tauté, with whom he said they had developed a communications problem. As the action is estimated by Anne Tauté to have cost him £30,000 it was a flamboyant gesture. *Oval's* defence cost £7,000, but it won.

Despite these lively disagreements Von took his second work, *Romeo and Juliet*, to *Oval*, which had an option on his next book. Anne Tauté turned it down.

She explained her decision to reject *Romeo and Juliet*. "It wasn't a patch on the first work. I said 'Look, it's not right. But would you like to do another crude, bloody one, for instance, take two years and do *Hamlet*'?"

Romeo and Juliet, published by Michael Joseph, beat *Othello* to the

bookshops by a matter of days. *Othello* scores by being cheaper (£4.50 in soft cover against £4.95) and has the added advantage of an optional package, including BBC cassettes of the play starring Paul Scofield. *Oval* has *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night* in production and aims to keep three artists working at once. The pace is rather slower for Von, who is awaiting a contract to do *Midsummer Night's Dream* and hopes to follow that with *Hamlet*. Both publishers have an agreement not to overlap, but I asked Von if it irritated him to find himself in competition over cartoon Shakespeare.

"What irritates me are two things. That I am in competition, yes, with my own idea, although it is not so much as that I feel it was so forcibly taken away from me. I think that is the real point. I would never have minded if the whole thing had been amicable. I never intended, after all, to do all 37 plays. I feel ten would be a nice round number to start with. And secondly it irritates me that I am grubbing around to do my next book, whereas Anne has a commitment for a series."

He believes the problem lies in his insistence on royalties as well as an advance for his work. Certainly he has a royalties contract for *Macbeth* and he wanted one from *Oval* for *Romeo and Juliet*. It is also, however, understandable that Anne Tauté, whose troubles with Von are by no means over, might prefer to work with less litigious artists. Her

relationship with Oscar Zarate, who was paid a flat fee for *Othello*, was trouble-free.

Von approaches Shakespeare with respect, affection and a rather scholarly tendency to pedantry. He owns the first folio edition from which the text for the plays was used.

Zarate, an Argentinian, has a gentle, diffident personality which no one who has seen his work would expect. His pictures suggest he sees the world as a menacing place, an atmosphere he has grafted on to his bald and sinister Venetians, his sly-lipped Iago and his foolishly vengeful Roderigo. His work on *Othello* is an extension of the drawings of punks and skinheads in his studio.

At 41, he is ten years older than Von. The idea of a Spanish-speaking Argentinian producing an illustrated *Othello* had struck me as incongruous, but Zarate smiled and said: "We read Shakespeare in Argentina, you know. He does not belong only to the English."

Although Zarate had no difficulties with *Oval Projects*, his work on *Othello* was not devoid of trauma. When he was commissioned to do the play, the Falklands crisis was reaching its height and it affected him badly. "I became very paranoid. I was disgusted with the whole event, with both sides. When the war started I was dealing with the first act where Othello is called to the senate and has to go and represent a Turkish invasion of Cyprus." The parallels struck him forcibly. "I was very paralysed for a while. I was going from radio to television to

newspapers. Then to Shakespeare. I do not see Othello as a noble hero. I see him as a mercenary."

Zarate has no reservations about the value of cartoon Shakespeare. Curiously, at one time Von did. Illustrated Shakespeare is not new, although cartoons using the full text are. Von himself had a comic version as a child but had not, he told me, taken it seriously.

"To me," he said, "Shakespeare is the language and to abridge or colloquialize removes the essence. I got an enormous amount of pleasure out of Shakespeare, even as a 16-year-old."

Overcoming his instinctive mild snobbery about comics, he found the project artistically exciting and, like everyone else involved in publishing Shakespeare comics, claims a missionary zeal in bringing the Bard to the masses.

He also admits candidly to a reasonable expectation that the project might make him a lot of money. He was paid £15,000 in advance but claims it cost him a great deal to produce the artwork. "It hasn't made me rich. It's made me poor. I'm broke which is why I'm living here with friends." He is living in a grandly decaying house in Bath, all stripped wood and marvellous objects on the walls, one of them a painting of Von's. He believes that by now he should be receiving royalties for *Macbeth*, a claim to which Anne Tauté reacts with controlled exasperation.

"It's quite ludicrous. People who know nothing about publishing imagine it's all very quick money. An advance is an advance against royalties. If you give someone £15,000 before publication, it is £15,000 to be earned by royalties as they come in. Von gets statements which show him exactly what the situation is. He will get royalties when he has exceeded his advance."

The crucial question is, how many copies of *Macbeth* have been sold? One report stated that the English printing of 33,000 sold out in three months and in America, with a print run of 53,000, it is being reprinted. Von is very interested in these figures which he is trying to verify. Anne Tauté, however, claims the situation is. He will get royalties when he has exceeded his advance."

Standing fastidiously back from these disagreements is Von's new editor, Philippa Harrison at Michael Joseph, an English graduate whose first reaction to cartoon Shakespeare was lukewarm. She changed her mind, she said, when the American company which owns the rights showed her Von's work. "I think it is absolutely lovely," she said. "And I think there is no harm in having two publishers doing illustrated Shakespeare. Providing we don't overlap."

A help or a hindrance? What the critics say

"They're ghastly... terrible... dreadful," said the actor, Donald Sinden. "What really appals me is that for these prices people could get really good seats in a theatre to see the plays. Take Iago, from *Othello*, the play I know best because I have just played it. He is meant to disarm, the audience should trust him. This Iago, from page one onwards, is utterly villainous. As for the speeches, they are better laid out, dare I say it, in a Penguin edition. I think people who read comics would find it all very confusing."

Schoolchildren were all prepared to welcome the books, even flick through them, although none seized them to retire to a quiet corner. I sought a more profound view from the only A-level student I know who is an authority on Shakespeare. Matthew Fay is 17, comes from a family with theatrical enthusiasms stretching back to the Abbey theatre and has been a dedicated theatregoer since childhood.

He has seen much of Shakespeare, including *Othello* four or five times, and got an A grade at O-level in English literature. He used to do an acid test on the cartoons by looking for specific soliloquies and speeches to see how they had been



Scenes from *Othello*, published by *Oval Projects*

treated, and found the layout unappreciative.

"It's not in verse lines, so you do not get the idea of iambic pentameter. Where the verse does matter you have to dart from place to place. The pictures work best where there are few words and a lot of action, such as Cassio's drunk scene. I'd love to have had something like this in the third year, but it wouldn't have much value for anyone seriously studying a play."

He liked the look of *Romeo and Juliet*. "The pictures make a good attempt at continuity. I think this guy manages to make the drawings complement the play. The colours and pictures do have a dramatic tenor to them, and the pictures are more sensitive to the text."

The views of teachers vary with the abilities of the children they teach. David Lund, head of English at a public day-school for boys, was unhappy.

"It certainly does not inspire respect for the word on a page. Anything that brings Shakespeare to people who might then go and see it in the theatre could break down the class difference in his popularity. But if interest ends with the cartoon play it isn't doing much good. It seems to me the young imagination can conjure up much more interesting picture than what is being offered here. Frankly, this is a travesty of what one is capable of in one's imagination."

This view contrasted sharply with that of a teacher, now head of English at a sixth-form centre, who taught until this year at a mixed ability school in a deprived area. She said: "I welcome anything that makes Shakespeare more accessible. When I was dealing with third and fourth-year classes of girls who approached Shakespeare with reluctance, I used devices like this myself. I got them to put the story into cartoon form, report the plots as for a newspaper, and act them out."

I often found that overcoming initial reluctance was all that was needed. The layout of a play, any play, can be off-putting to anyone. And Shakespeare, with all those slabs of verse and archaic words, is particularly alien at first."

Casualties of the cold

Legend has it that the saintly King Wenecelas peeded divine intervention to preserve the circulation in his feet as he braved the ice and snow; for those who have cardiovascular problems, but do not expect a miracle, a few simple precautions will reduce their chance of becoming one of the many casualties of cold weather.

Doctors find that trouble often arises as the patient prepares to go to work, or goes to bed. It is foolhardy for a man with a poor coronary circulation to leave the warmth of his house for the hard, unaccustomed labour of clearing snow in freezing conditions, and the circulatory strain is increased if he then drives to work in a car colder than the household refrigerator. The car has to stand outside, the engine and heater should be turned on before it is time to leave.

Strenuous exercise, including sawing logs and wood-chopping, are better avoided in very cold weather, but enough fuel must be brought in during the day so that the warmth of evening fire need not be left for a chilly trip to the coal shed. Bedrooms should be heated, bedroom windows kept closed, and beds warmed so that the circulation does not have to withstand ice cold sheets.

Invitro innovation

An improvement in the technique for invitro fertilization (test tube babies) has been introduced at Kings College Hospital will, by being safer and very much cheaper, enable far more women to have babies. Two years ago Professor Stuart Campbell, heard of a method of collecting eggs from the human ovary.

It is this idea which has been developed by Professor Campbell and his team so that the procedure can be done as an outpatient. No anaesthetics are needed, and as no hospital beds or operating theatres are used, costs are substantially reduced. The patient's ovaries are first stimulated by giving a hormone, FSH. Later a second hormone, HCG precipitates ovulation; exactly 35 hours after this hormone has been given a woman is ready to have three or four eggs aspirated from her ovary. It is seen in a sterile room where, under ultrasound surveillance, a needle is guided through the abdominal wall and bladder to the egg. Fifty hours later the woman returns, again as an outpatient, to have the fertilized eggs, embryos, implanted in her uterus. The method is simple, safe and quick; it has not produced any side effects, other than an occasional trace of blood in the first specimen of urine passed after the eggs have been collected. It does not necessarily rely upon a highly trained team.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Poultry poison

However distressing the emotional trials which the heads of state may have had to bear at the European Community Summit in Athens, they can not have been more trying than the physical problems they had to overcome at the meeting two years ago, when over 300 people were afflicted with food poisoning. This incident has been used to illustrate the perils of institutional cooking and the need for care when cooking the Christmas dinner.

Poultry is notorious for spreading gastrointestinal infections, particularly salmonella and campylobacter, for however careful the butcher, the bird is likely to be contaminated by spilt intestinal contents. It is important that frozen poultry is completely thawed before cooking and that uncooked meat of whatever sort is not put in the same refrigerator as cooked food, or allowed to come in contact with it. Hands and kitchen utensils should be washed thoroughly after handling meat or poultry. Several attacks of food poisoning have been traced to the habit of carving on the kitchen chopping board rather than in the dining room.

Knee surgery

This month the first of this year's skiers will hobble along to their doctors complaining that their knees click, lock or are just swollen and painful; they will join the injured from the football field already on a waiting list for meniscotomy, the operation for removal of the whole damaged cartilage. A recent review questions whether the development of the arthroscopic, an illuminated viewing tube, now renders this operation obsolete for most cases. Although surgeons have, since the First World War, been able to look into the knee joint with an arthroscope, it has only become established as a diagnostic procedure in the last 20 years, and only within the last decade have advances in instrument design enabled surgeons to develop techniques of operating on the cartilage under direct vision.

Once these very difficult techniques have been mastered, a skilled surgeon is usually able to achieve a better result by removing only the damaged portion of the cartilage. He can do this through the comparatively small incision needed for the passage of his instruments rather than by opening up the whole joint. The new operation can be done in a day surgical unit.

Beating asthma

As more women return to work after childbirth, the day of delivery becomes of economic as well as social importance. But however assiduously couples study calendars, charts, and diaries, the timing of conception remains difficult so that babies are still apt to be born before the firm's busiest time. A report suggests that there are better reasons for careful planning of birthdays than the firm's holiday schedule or a misplaced belief in horoscopes. The season of a baby's birth can have a marked effect on its chances of developing a common form of allergic asthma due to a sensibility to housemites.

The study shows that children born in the summer and autumn are more likely to suffer from allergic diseases due to housemites, one of the commoner causes of asthmatic wheezing and nasal snuffling problems which, once initiated, may persist throughout life. Even in the cleanest house mites are abundant between May and September, since babies are more easily sensitized to an allergy in the first six months of life than at other ages, parents with a strong family history of allergy might be wise to plan for a winter or spring child.

TALKBACK

Backing the Bill

From Julia Newberger, 36 Orlando Road, London, SW14. One important section was omitted from my article on the Sex Equality Bill (Comment, Friday Page, December 9), which led to an incorrect expression of my views. Although in the context of the Bill itself I thought homosexuals should not have been included, I am convinced that there should be anti-discrimination legislation which would tackle the needs of a group which suffers from considerable prejudice and disadvantage. The Sex Equality Bill's failure points yet again to the urgent need for a Bill of Rights which would at the very least incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights.

Suttee purpose

From Elizabeth Sullivan, Benton Castle, Milford Haven, Dyfed. When I was a child in India 60 years ago the practice of Suttee was still prevalent, despite the edict of the British Raj that it was unlawful. Perhaps, with regard to the article on widows, (Monday Page, December 12) and bearing in mind the status of these ladies in Indian households, this practice was not as barbaric as the western mind thought. Apart from being in the emotional state that death provokes, they were generally heavily drugged before throwing themselves onto the flames.

FIRST PERSON

Caroline Harper My lesbian daughter

It is tough going for convention-bound, sensitive parents when offspring decides to "educate" them into the 1980s. If your young should show missionary zeal in your latter-day enlightenment, don't cut and run. Just brace yourself for shocks.

Two years ago my daughter, who lives in London, broke the news that she was "gay" (her terminology, not mine). The shock was seismic, stunning; and I found myself grieving for a daughter I thought I'd lost.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Today, from our disparate viewpoints and ways of life, we are closer than we ever were when she was a rebellious teenager, turning over new boyfriends and old motor cars with a panache that caught the eye of parents and police alike.

I am not pretending that it's all been plain sailing or that I am now reconciled to her way of life. We have both, separately, been through enough heartache to keep in overdrive during many a sleepless night. She, during the years, was trying to suppress her "unnatural" feelings, with near-disastrous effects on her health, both physical and mental. And I, during the painful time of seeking advice and information on bisexuality - at my daughter's suggestion - from friends and colleagues.

I thought I knew the underlying reason for it, of course: the divorce darkening her teenage years. We, her parents, must share the blame for her perversion - if that's what it was. Friends were reassuring on this point; and unshocked. But then, it wasn't their daughter, was it? Any imbalance of male and female genes is from birth, I was told; although it's possible for a traumatic experience to act as catalyst and tip the fine balance one way or the other. It could be a temporary phase in her life that she would discard "when the right man comes along". (It was a man said that!) And if it wasn't temporary the consensus was: "well, does it really matter as long as she is happy and fulfilled?"

I went up to town to see her. We talked as we have never talked before; in the street, over a meal, between acts of a play - as much woman to woman as mother to daughter. I learned how her new sexual freedom had helped her to think and express herself more clearly than she had been able to for years. Even if I didn't agree with her new life, shouldn't I be grateful for that?

Now, two years later, she has given up her job and her career to become a "mature" student. She is surviving on her grant in one of London's deprived areas, picking up banners left, right and centre, mainly left, and, with a women's group, campaigning for a prostitutes' union.

When she does put pen to paper to keep tutors and parents happy, she undermines the English language with socio-feminist jargon, incensing us all. (She happens to be reading English for her degree.) We meet regularly and she fills me in on the life of the stuff of which headlines are made - as she sees it. As I see it, it is highly uncomfortable, slanted, and inevitably refracted through the feminist prism. I still react like litmus paper to her more extreme theories, such as planned single-parenthood for women who don't want a man about the house, and suspect she would be equally shocked if I did otherwise.

There is no cosy ending to this story perhaps the never will be. But I have still a daughter, and a relationship with her, that I care deeply about. And I have still a lot to learn.

Anyone mean enough to throw a party without Smirnoff will have fun throwing this streamer. SMIRNOFF IF IT ISN'T SMOOTH IT ISN'T SMIRNOFF

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THE TIMES DIARY

Cheque mate

Peter Kellner, political editor of the New Statesman, was experiencing some delay earlier this year in receiving a £50 fine from TV-am. Every time he complained, he was told the computer had broken down, his cheque was awaiting signature, but sort of thing. He mentioned this problem to Peter Jay, former chief executive of TV-am, when both political pundits were appearing on Channel 4's A Week in Politics.

Special delivery

It would wonder trade unionists are tempting quick getaways when they see a gentleman with a large bag of money in his hand moving towards them. This week, the cost of ailing a writ in the Supreme Court went up from £50 to £55. This cost was passed on to whomsoever received the writ in the first place should he or she lose the subsequent court case.

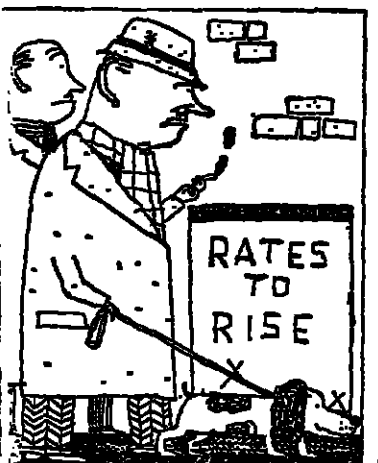
Doleful

Matthew Parris, formerly a member of Mrs Thatcher's private office and now MP for Derbyshire West, recently completed filming a World in Action programme. In it, he tries to discover at first hand what life is like when you're on the dole. The programme was provisionally scheduled for next week, but has now been withdrawn. Granada Television, which makes World in Action, was reluctant to give reasons why. Since World in Action is off the air after just one week, until mid-January, one supposes that the Parris programme must have a certain timeless quality.

Doo-dah day

Lady Olga Maitland's troops and the Greenham Common demonstrators will be joining battle again this Sunday. While demonstrators mass outside the Ministry of Defence, the failed contingent will be on the opposite side of the road, each holding a letter of the alphabet which together spell out "Women and families for defence". Lady Olga's chosen weapon, will probably not deter the other sort of peace women from attacking her with their latest battle song. It goes something like this: "Olga Maitland will be nuked, doo-dah, doo-dah. Olga Maitland will be nuked..." and so on.

BARRY FANTONI



"We're seriously considering putting only one spare room in the fall-out shelter."

Cryptic

Eton College has recently discovered "a few bones" in the crypt beneath the college chapel, not exactly an uncommon location, but the Provost of Eton, Lord Charteris, is concerned because "they are loose and we don't know who they are". He believes that, rather than being "remains of some overgrown medieval pupill" they are "the family of one of my Provost predecessors".

Does David Hockney have the latest writing hand in the West? In a 30-minute signing session at the Hayward Gallery this week, Hockney managed to sign 142 exhibition catalogues for Hockney's Photographs, currently on view there. He also signed two posters, four books and nine postcards.

Off campus

"Campus, the right-wing alternative student magazine", has been banned by the student unions of six universities. It also has its objects in the right. During the last general election campaign Simon Clark, its publisher and editor, sent 100 issues to Brian Monteith, then chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students. The package was opened by Tim Cowell, assistant director of community affairs at Conservative Central Office, who impounded it and wrote to Clark saying that he wouldn't want the media to associate Campus with the Conservative Party. This is a relief since "Campus" favours such things as "The heterosexual Decadence Club" and "video nasties". However, Monteith claims that "the magazine reflects student life far more than Central Office would like to believe."

PHS

House-buying: how the Law Society slipped up again

by Alastair Brett

unscrupulous or inefficient solicitor — the state of anarchy and lawlessness visualized by the Law Society is most unlikely.

The Society counters the "easy profits" charge by declaring that prices have come down by about 13 per cent in real terms since scale rates were abolished in 1975 after a Prices and Incomes Board report that solicitors were then making too much money out of conveyancing. Even so, the society has recently had to concede that though 87 per cent of the public seem happy with the services provided by their solicitor, at least 40 per cent think that fees are too high, against 39 per cent who think they are not.

Interestingly, the large City firms are not as worried by Mitchell's Bill as the smaller provincial practices. This suggests that the really lucrative work these days — where the depth of the client's pocket largely dictates the size of a bill — is found in the company/commercial field not in home-buying.

The irony is that at the very time the Law Society most needs to demonstrate how good it is at policing its own members and protecting the public against over-

charging, it has been rocked by the Glanville Davies scandal, in which it refused to take action against a solicitor and former member of the Law Society council who grossly overcharged a client.

It has also been embarrassed by a call for the resignation of the entire council by the chairman of the British Legal Association on the grounds that it is failing in its duties.

On top of that, the campaign against the conveyancing Bill has been a catalogue of disaster. The rot set in when Christopher Hewetson, president of The Law Society, wrote a remarkably intemperate letter to the country's 44,000 practising solicitors on November 14 seeking to impose a three-line whip on the profession to help defeat the Bill, but at the same time tacitly admitting that he had not seen the final draft.

He also accused Mitchell and David Trench of the Consumers Association, who had helped draft the Bill, of secrecy over its contents. That in turn led to Trench's accusing the society of "breach of confidence and lack of good faith". Graham Lee made the counter-allegation that the Consumers Association was "disin-

genuous" and its report on house transfers "inaccurate, misleading, and misguided in many of its conclusions."

Worse was to come, for the methods advocated by the Law Society to defeat the Bill — including putting pressure on Conservative MPs to vote against it and attempts to ensure that MPs in favour are not in the House today — have been reported to the Speaker as a possible breach of parliamentary privilege.

The net result of all this is that relations between the Consumers Association and the Law Society have now reached an all-time low; the society has appeared as the last bastion of vested interest while the Consumers Association has been portrayed as the champion of the people.

As one North Country solicitor put it: "The panic language coming out of Chancery Lane is quite indefensible. It has not only embarrassed the profession but has made it look little better than the most reactionary element of the trade union movement."

But leaving aside the Law Society's banana skin path, if Mitchell's Bill gets the successful second reading which it deserves, or the Government takes over the Bill, the society must rise to the challenge. It must put its own house in order and, given the likelihood of the Bill's becoming law, help its members persuade the public to their viewpoint: that solicitors' offices rather than building societies, banks or licensed conveyancers still offer the safest, most reliable and fastest service in the house-buying business, and, most importantly, at a reasonable price.

The author is a solicitor and a legal adviser to The Times.

David Watt

Radical — but in a traditional way

This year's Reith lecturer, Sir Douglas Wass, whose Machinery of Government series is now complete, has had a pretty mixed press. The critics have got their knife into him for excessive caution and particularly for having treated the open government issue in such a way as to leave the last *arcana* of government inviolate to Fleet Street.

This criticism seems to me to miss the target. I found the lectures marvellously lucid and surprisingly radical. Of course if the BBC or anyone else expected a man who has been Permanent Head of the Treasury for the last nine years and who retired from that eminence less than a year ago, to trumpet forth fashionable conclusions like "What's wrong with Whitehall is the Civil Service", they were out of their minds. Sir Douglas is one of the best of his kind — a very clever generalist with a detached and subtle mind — but he has, like all of us, professional deformations which include an aversion to chopping one's own profession.

But the striking thing about the Wass diagnosis and prescription is that if one compares it with what is supposed to be the last word in fearless, anti-establishment radicalism, in Sir John Hoskyns's recent diatribes, the two are remarkably close. The Hoskyns proposition, put alongside their Wass "equivalents" are as follows.

● Hoskyns: The Prime Minister should no longer be restricted to the small pool of career politicians in Westminster in forming a government.

Wass: Not dealt with directly, but no obvious objections provided (a) that the newcomers have sufficient parliamentary acceptability to be effective and (b) that there is no attempt to introduce a system of ministerial "overlords" such as Churchill tried unsuccessfully in 1951.

● Hoskyns: Whitehall must be organized for strategy and innovation as well as for day to day survival.

Wass: Quite agree. Essential that ministers should have collectively an alternative appraisal to that provided by the colleague putting forward the proposal. We must resurrect and greatly strengthen the Central Policy Review Staff (or think tank) to be the servant of the Cabinet as a whole.

● Hoskyns: It must be possible to bring adequate numbers of high-quality outsiders into the Civil Service.

Wass: Hm! In favour of specialist (political) advisers and secondments, sabbaticals etc for normal civil servants to prevent their getting too inward-looking. But completely opposed to an American "spoils" system or indeed to the politicization of the career civil service.

● Hoskyns: The workload of ministers must be reduced.

Wass: Sympathetic to the problem and even attracted by the idea of a small "War" Cabinet without portfolios (as in 1916 to 1918) but reluctantly forced to Churchills' conclusion that it is only by being involved in everyday issues that people can identify the longer-term general problems and construct suitable solutions.

It will be seen from this catalogue that with the exception of the (admittedly important) item about the Civil Service as such, the mandarin does not find much to disagree with in the truculent outsider's approach.

What we are seeing here is something not so far from a

consensus of the need for a reform of Whitehall — a consensus which is not so surprising when you think that a debate has been going on now, virtually uninterrupted, for nearly 20 years against a background of almost unmitigated national decline. Even I dare not think how many dozens of articles I have written on the subject since the Fulton Report came out in 1967. Where we have got to at the end of all this is that everyone, or almost everyone, is agreed that the present system of public administration does not produce enough of three commodities — imagination, strategic planning, and energy.

Likewise everyone, or virtually everyone, agrees that while the existing bureaucratic machinery can and should be rejigged to encourage these things, the main requirement is the infusion of new blood into the system. The outstanding question, and the one that divides Hoskyns from Wass, is where this new blood should come from and which vessels it should be pumped through.

Hoskyns, in effect, wants more outsiders, especially businessmen, at a ministerial level in government and more outsiders actually inserted into the administrative machine, presumably a political initiative. Wass and other Civil Service apologists like Lord Bancroft would actually welcome brighter, fresher politicians and would like to bring in new perspectives to the existing rejuvenation, but are sceptical of non-political, "amateur" politicians, and are determined to resist any upsetting of the "the career" or making the Civil Service more "political."

This is an argument in which, it seems to me, both sides need to modify their position. It must be right (pace Hoskyns) that political skills are a necessary if not quite a sufficient condition of being a minister in a modern democracy.

On the other hand, some further rejuvenation of the present Civil Service is essential and I don't see, anywhere, in the Reith Lectures, a serious proposal for bringing it about. What about the continental system of ministerial cabinets? Or what (to be a bit more brutal) about making it easier, or indeed possible, to sack civil servants?

But the main thing that strikes me about the whole argument after all this time, is how narrow, in a way, it is. National revival depends on the national spirit, which is in itself dependent on a huge variety of factors — basic education, industrial training, the nature of the class system, housing mobility, the modernization of trade unions, the relationship of central to local government, and above all the flexibility of the political system itself.

The reorganization of central government is not necessarily the most important key to all these changes. If these changes could be brought about independently, the reorganization of the centre would immediately become far easier. This is not just a question of mechanical connexion, such as the Social Democrat and Liberal claim that a reform of the electoral system would bring outsiders into government by the political route and establish more administrative continuity.

They may or may not be right about that. What matters is that the entire polity and the entire economy together should be more responsive and more supple. A change in the central government will help this process along but the process itself is what is going to change central government.

Philip Howard

Fasten seat belts... the lodger replies

The lodger strikes back. Those of you who have been following this landlord-tenant drama can take a paragraph of time off to meditate beautiful thoughts, while I jingle newcomers up to date. Lodger — airline pilot — turned out of London pied-a-terre on the road to Heathrow — comes to stay with us — shows no inclination to pay rent, in spite of laboured hints — sent to charm school by his employer — slugged by landlord in his column in *The Times*. You get the picture?

The lodger claims the right to reply. I suppose so, depending on the quality of the piece, and provided that it is not taken as a contribution in lieu of rent. Here it is, with the grammar and spelling tidied up, and (if you will believe it) the wetter attempts at jokes dried out, sharpened up, or deleted.

"Contrary to the landlord's scurrilous assertion, I am not nearly as old or as smelly as his dogs." (Beagles, actually, ergo hounds, dumb). "As for his comparison to Polyphemus: I have two eyes, an advantage in the trade of pilot. However, when I stay with the landlord, my room is a cave in the basement below stairs. So I suppose the comparison is not wholly inapt."

"In order to keep literary pace with my erudite (sic) host (sic), I looked in his dictionary for quotations under landlord for other men's flowers to decorate my prose, after his fashion. I could find only two. Shaw said, 'If you are going to have a landlord, you had better have a rich landlord'. This seems impertinent and inappropriate.

"The only other landlord quotation is Charles Lamb's verselet: *Ever I marry a wife, I'll marry a landlord's daughter. For then I may sit in the bar, And drink cold brandy and water.*"

"I once persuaded the current admirer of Juliette, the landlord's daughter, that an ancient oil stove

with a porthole was a television set. He wondered why his eyebrows were tinged when he turned up the volume. I don't think Juliette will marry me. In any case, what I learnt on my charm course is bound to bring them running.

(Ed: feeble quotation work for the Russian proverb, "The only trustworthy landlord is a dead one"; or Lloyd George's Limehouse speech, "Who is the landlord? The landlord is a gentleman who does not earn his wealth. He does not even take the trouble to receive his wealth. He has a host of people around him to do the actual spending for him...")

"Sometimes our roles of landlord and lodger are reversed, when he comes to stay with me in the country. Driven by his wife (it is too idle to learn how to drive, in spite of having been motor transport officer in the Black Watch), in a car that could be an advertisement for the longevity of a well-known Swedish model (maintenance and cleaning unnecessary), the landlord arrives and strides blindly around the Withshire Downs in a parody of the eccentric *littérateur*, book at the high port, dogs waddling behind, villagers gapping because they have seen him being rude on the telly.

"I have no comeback against this performance. A man dressed as a bogus admiral in Ladbroke Grove would be arrested, or impounded until the next Notting Hill Carnival.

"A fiver from each of my friends who has said to me, 'If I hear this is your captain, the lodger, speaking, I'm getting off the plane', and I could afford to pay rent. Consider, next time you fly, that you are connected by a metal tube to two men very anxious about their own survival and well-being. Your own survival intact. And if you are not chive back with us, we try harder." (Ed: As a hack, the lodger makes a great pilot.)

Roger Boyes reports on Lech Walesa's plan to profit from government failures

Poland: hope behind the price rises



Gdansk queue: despite expectations engendered by the authorities, Poles still have to wait up to two hours to buy basic foods

Warsaw. Today, the thirteenth anniversary of the shooting of Polish workers during riots on the Baltic coast, Lech Walesa is expected to put forward a new programme of opposition. He intends, unless his freedom of movement is again curtailed, to visit the crosses at the Lenin Shipyard which mark the death of those workers, to describe his vision of the future. It is likely to concentrate on discussion, on cementing links between workers and intellectuals and on harnessing people's anger.

The game, Walesa believes, is no longer about winning or losing, but rather working out ways that will make it easier for the government to adopt parts of the Solidarity vision. This is not a struggle that has to be fought on the streets, but rather on the factory floor.

The authorities have tried three principal ways of guaranteeing calm in the country and among the working class. The sum of the strategies is known as "normalization", a technique which in post-1968 Czechoslovakia bought a kind of graveyard peace, and which in post-1956 Hungary brought a couple of years of security police terror and then gradual relaxation. The first instrument is to purchase the compliance of those workers with the strongest industrial muscle — above all the coalminers. They have double pay (though often only after working on Saturdays), double rations and special shops.

Solidarity activists from Gdansk have been trying to end the privileged isolation of the miners, however, to establish links between the forges of labour. In Silesia people are still sceptical of everything and everybody, of the government, of the Warsaw-controlled underground and of their bosses. But there is an uneasiness that has not dissolved with the recent announcement of an extra two kilos of butter a month for face workers.

The second line of normalization is to create groups and new unions at this time every year a group of birdwatchers assembles in an Indian swamp to squelch the mosquitoes and through another of those obscure rituals that mark the conservationists' season. They are counting Siberian cranes, a species celebrated by ancient Persian poets as "the Great Northern Princess" and now more likely to be shot out of the sky and roasted for dinner.

At most, only 200 are left in the wild. A "western flock" of birds breeds in the Soviet tundra and migrates 6,000 miles to wintering grounds at a bird sanctuary near Bharatpur in northern India while the larger eastern flock more sensibly opts for the Yangtze River in China.

With that unerring instinct for self-destruction characteristic of so many endangered species, the western flock flies straight across the most turbulent areas of Iran and Afghanistan, where trigger-happy soldiers find the large, slow-flying birds irresistible for target practice and the pot.

which can lay claim to speaking for the working class. The goal is that workers will join these new pro-government unions, speak their grievances to the officials, have them translated into salon-language, then wait for the results. But the unions, though they are indeed passing complaints on to the management, are at the same time usually obliged to accept the management refusal and to translate this into language acceptable to the workers.

Perhaps, they say, when national federations are established and become active next year, perhaps then we can fight hard. But nobody much believes in this "perhaps". The new unions were not even consulted in advance before the renewed rationing of butter, and this fact alone condemns them in the eyes of many who remember Solidarity demands.

The third instrument of normalization is the banning of intellectual associations that could form platforms of opposition. The intellectuals — who are often as badly off as the workers — a part-time university lecturer will receive 80 zloties an hour, barely enough for a coffee and a bun — have returned to their more limited circles, often based on friendships formed in the years of student upheaval in 1968.

An underground university gives lectures, holds debates in private apartments about the future of nuclear disarmament, invites unpublished poets to recite, and cabaret singers to perform.

The linkages between the intellectuals and the worker radicals are holding up, but they are under strain. Intellectual opposition and factory protests are taking their separate routes, and this must be ranked as one of the few successes of "normalization".

Food prices will be increased next month and it is clear that there is a groundswell of frustration in Poland seeking an outlet. Take the case of a factory assembly worker, who

after deductions earns about 12,000 zloties a month (about £85). His wife, who has to work, earns 7,000 zloties (£50) a month as a part-time secretary. Allowances for their two children bring the net income to something over 20,000 zloties (£140) a month — well above the national average and enough, given low rents, to survive.

That survival, however, is bought at considerable emotional and physical pressure — on the wife, who has to queue perhaps two hours a day after work for basic foods, and on the husband, who has to work overtime and spend his free time arranging for the delivery of a part for the washing machine through the friend of a friend.

All around them prices, not just for food, are soaring. Luxuries have been trimmed from their lives and any large purchase — a pair of children's shoes — has to be planned two months ahead. Food prices aggravate their situation, but their lives are not as intolerable as that of old age pensioners, single-parent families and the poorer paid. Yet it is the skilled workers who have traditionally revolted first, and put so much force behind their demands that governments have crumpled or reversed their policies.

The problem is now one of expectations. By its persistent propaganda of sacrifice, the government has tried to reduce these expectations. But the skilled worker remembers from the early Giersek years what a government can offer — oranges in the shops, well-stocked supermarkets, services that work. And Solidarity has taught him that he has a responsibility for those workers who are less well off — working in the health service, for example.

The hope of the Solidarity leadership is that connexions made during the Solidarity era will be fused again in discontent at the food price rises. Mr Walesa shares this hope, although neither the underground nor the overground expects a

huge popular explosion as experienced in 1970 or 1980. But they understand the workers, and the workers understand their power.

If the car worker goes on the streets, he risks losing his job or being arrested. If he stays at his workplace and simply stops work, no riot police in the world could persuade him to take up his tools again. The food price rises thus give the underground an opportunity to test out their industrial muscle, to assess the nature of their support and the level of frustrations.

The government, of course, hopes to test this feeling in an institutionalized acceptable way. Questionnaires have been circulated among factories asking the workers for their opinions about price rises. The replies — the first have already been received — are evidently unprintable in the main. Most respondents have not answered question seven — name, address, workplace — and most, it is clear, see no point in price rises at all.

This is the central failure of normalization: the sacrifices demanded in the name of economic reform have not been matched by rewards. The sole observable improvement in the economy has been a better flow in the supply of staples — bread, fat or washing powder. But even this tentative achievement has been undermined by the arbitrary announcement of butter rationing, the cessation of serious meat shortages, and the visible absence of things that matter, such as toys before Christmas.

Following the code of Hammurabi, which declared that royal physicians should lose their lives when Assyrian rulers died, the heads of Polish economic ministers and advisers have been rolling. None of this impresses. The facts are clear enough to a factory worker: the standard of living is plummeting, economic reform is bringing only higher prices and he is seized by a sense of impotence. It will be a hard winter for the Poles.

ance of water-holes — will finally still be condemned to die from the cold in Siberia", the Indian Association for the Protection of Nature warned earlier this year.

The World Wildlife Fund believes seven of the 15 species of crane to be in danger of extinction, primarily because so many of their wetland habitats have been destroyed. Several species have recovered spectacularly after becoming national causes célèbres, among them the Manchurian, or red crest, crane of Japan. But as marshlands in eastern Hokkaido continue to be drained, this bird's future still hangs in the balance.

Though few Japanese have ever seen a live *tancho* its potency as a symbol in contemporary Japan is such that it crops up everywhere, from wedding gowns to the national airline. The ultimate humiliation for a dying species, surely, to serve as decoration for the forces that are wiping it out.

Flying into extinction

by Tony Samstag

Meanwhile villagers in northern Pakistan and the Punjab have taken to crane-hunting.

Nearly 6,000 cranes are held in captivity, according to the World Wildlife Fund, most of them domestic or common cranes. Some of them act as decoys to attract the migrants, which are caught in flight by teams of hunters using *sows*, crude flying snare of lead-weighted cords. In skilled hands, a *sow* can bring down a crane from 100ft. More happily, recent reports suggest that some of the birds, their wings clipped to prevent escape, have adapted surprisingly well to their homes and have bred.

Other, more orthodox captive-breeding programmes have been supplemented with a range of weird and wonderful experiments: eggs produced by captive cranes have been distributed among nests in the northern tundra, and small radio transmitters have been fitted to the birds' legs to help scientists trace the vicissitudes of migration. Some Indian conservationists are convinced, however, that it is too late to save the western flock, which could cease to migrate altogether by the end of the century. "The increasing number of obstacles the birds meet in their flight south — hunters, new industrialized areas, the disappear-



مکتبہ من الاصل



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WE MEAN WHAT SHE SAYS

By "freezing" the budget rebates to Britain and Germany which were agreed at Stuttgart in June, the European Parliament hopes to put pressure on the Council of Ministers to agree on lasting solutions to the crisis now afflicting the European Community. The Parliament has stopped short of rejecting the budget outright but it has taken action which it hopes will concentrate the minds of member governments and force them to come to terms in the next three months. The intention may be meritorious but the means adopted are neither constructive nor coherent enough for their declared purpose.

The rebate of 750 million ecu (£457 million) due to Britain in 1984 against its over-heavy contributions to the Community's resources in 1983 has been put into what is called the reserve chapter of the Budget. The normal use of the reserve is to receive and hold money in certain cases until such time as the policies for which the money is intended are adopted. It is, in other words, a kind of hypothecated contingency reserve, and when the intended policies are fulfilled, the money is transferred out of it.

In the present instance, a procedure which is part of normal Community financial arrangements is being misused as a political weapon. The Parliament is demanding final decisions on the Community's need to increase its own revenue from member-states, on Britain's and Germany's unfairly high

contributions, to these resources, and on agricultural spending. Given such solutions by the end of March, it will release the money. It is not altogether clear whether the money would be released whatever the details of such an agreement, but the presumption is that, above all else, it wants an agreement of some sort by that date, and one that is durable and comprehensive.

This claim to be seeking the long-term solution which the Council of Ministers sought and failed to find at Athens is, on the face of it, in line with Britain's own argument that the crisis has to be settled as a whole and permanently. Yet Parliament's claim to be acting helpfully is hollow since its action discriminates against two individual states, Britain and Germany. In a resolution it passed in November it undertook to avoid such discrimination.

Indeed, logic might suggest that if the object is to force the Council of Ministers to reach agreement it would have been better to reject the Budget altogether. It is tempting to think that if the European Community can only settle its disputes by being brought to a brink, it might be better for it to be brought swiftly to a brink with a terrifying drop rather than to be led haltingly to a number of little brinks which irritate rather than terrify. Yet on balance the British government's view is that it would not have helped the Community at this stage for the Budget to be totally rejected. The

result would have been too much damaging dislocation.

Britain's position is that a startling enough brink will be reached anyway when the ceiling of 1 per cent of the VAT-based contributions is reached in 1984. It is going to be impossible to deal with this year's agricultural price negotiations because there will be no money for financing any price increases.

The European Parliament has chosen the end of March for its deadline because the next summit of Ministers will be held earlier that month and because it is the end of our financial year, by which time we require the rebate (and in previous years have got it.) But what if no solution is reached by the Council of Ministers in March? The Parliament may keep the money frozen after its deadline, but if it did it is clear what the British government would and should do.

In Parliament yesterday, the Prime Minister said that in that event we should take action to safeguard our position - a formula she has used before. In plain language, that means we should withhold part of our contributions to the Community due for transfer from funds held in London. This action, to compensate for the loss to which Britain was subjected, really would be the brink and Mrs Thatcher will be right to make the Community face it. This must not be bluff and the other member states need to understand that what is said is meant.

WHEN CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES

In peace and war information is power. It has always been so, since long before the age of telex or satellite television broadcasts. It was Aeschylus who first coined the phrase that truth is the first casualty of war, and even Napoleon was heard to observe that "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets". It is thus the natural instinct of government, at all times, to attempt to harness information to its purposes, and only more so when matters of national security are critically at stake. Journalists are aware that this desire conflicts with the traditional purpose of the press which is, as *The Times* sonorously declared more than 100 years ago, "to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation".

The Beach Committee, whose report on the protection of military information was published yesterday, had to consider the point at which, during an emergency, government, press and people can all roughly agree that the public interest would be better served by some inhibition on the freedom to publish. Most of the British press would accept that, while the public interest is best served by maximum disclosure, this cannot be an absolute condition, since we all recognize that the public interest already requires some statutory restriction on press freedom as, for instance, in the workings of the courts. So the principle does not need to be argued; it is where the line is drawn in the application of that principle that will

always, and rightly, provoke argument and concern.

The Committee observed that, in time of tension, it would not be possible to draw a very precise definition of "military information". Moreover, once the general principle had been accepted that some formal system of information control should be introduced in those circumstances, it must be left to the official authorities in the first instance to determine what information they feel needs to be protected from disclosure. Why should they be trusted to carry out such a task benignly? Why should the press and the public not assume that information will more often be withheld for political or bureaucratic convenience, than to save lives? What is to prevent this system being introduced unnecessarily, and then being abused?

These questions can never be answered unequivocally. Such a system, in other words, will only work at all if it starts off on a basis of reasonable trust between public, press and government. That trust should be initially secured by an acceptance that no such arrangement could be introduced until there had been a formal state of emergency, which would anyway involve society in a wide range of consequences of which information control would only be one. Beyond that there would have to be trust by the press, cultivated over years of custom and practice, that the military authorities and their political masters operate a minimalist policy on information control, restricting the flow only when genuine operational needs require it in order to save lives.

TOO MUCH OF A SNIFF

The conviction this week in Glasgow of the Raja brothers for the sale to children of made-up "kits" for inhaling fumes from solvents has, naturally enough, led to a burst of press and public attention to glue sniffing. Sadly the fashion - for that is what the practice has become among some adolescents - is not new. It has been on the policy agenda for some time, and in a low-key way the Department of Health has taken steps to alert doctors and nurses to its growth and has convened conferences of policemen and researchers, most recently, and not before time, manufacturers of adhesives and retailers have been brought into the talks. This list, however, has a notable omission: parents.

There is a danger in the kind of moral panic seen this week, in the banner headlines, in the enthusiasm of backbench MPs to leap into the legislative swim, in the unfocused demand for action once a social breakdown has been discovered. The danger is that public disgust gets translated all too readily into a demand for the state to intercede, to absolve us all from the consequences of our and our dependents' actions. Manufacturers and retailers of potentially dangerous products (and there is an array of volatile substances on the shelves of newsagents and supermarkets that could be abused) carry responsibility. But sometimes we leap too quickly for the regulatory shackles. One of the blessings of the shift in attitudes in Britain since 1979 is

a new consciousness of the limits of governmental action in the social sphere. Glue-sniffing, like the abuse by teenagers of other drugs, alcohol or tobacco, demands action in and by families.

The rebuilding of parental responsibility as much as the behavioural problem itself should be the focus of policy. Over the abuse of solvent based adhesives there must be no complacency. The figures for related deaths and injuries are an undeniable cause for concern, and the Department of Health gave reassuring sign in Mr John Patten's statement yesterday that measures are in hand, albeit within the voluntary framework already established. A programme of education for schools, clinics and shop-keepers is envisaged but the Department is right not to give it the trappings of a crusade, and further glorify the sniffing fashion. Are such measures enough?

It would certainly be wrong to extend the reach of the criminal law to either the act of sniffing or its results (for example new categories of disorderly conduct). The behaviour at issue, Mr Patten noted, varies from being simply a transient phase through which adolescents pass to a sign of a deeper disturbance in personality. Extending the role of social services departments is not required at this point, either. Scottish examples are provocative but have their limits: the Scottish system of children's courts and its tradition of social

work perhaps needed the but-
work of the specific statute on
solvent abuse passed earlier this
year.

Yet, as the Government does
acknowledge, there may be a
case for new law governing the
sale of substances with such an
obviously harmful effect. The
present policy is to pin faith on
the cooperation of newsgagents
and hardware stores which sell
glue. The shops concerned are,
however, ill-organized; national
federations may make injunc-
tions that have no effect in the
corner shop. Perhaps the pawky
response of the Raja brothers in
court - although they knew the
commercial benefit of what they
were doing, as was illustrated by
the fact they kept gallon drums
of glue in the basement along
with a handy supply of crisp and
plastic bags - is the obverse side
of that large-scale, and welcome
movement of Asian immigrants
into small scale retailing.

At present a legal code governs
the sale of alcohol to minors; it
was recently extended to cover
fireworks. Some further exten-
sion to cover certain volatile
substances used for intoxicating
inhalation - they are fairly easy
to identify and proscribe - would
do no great injury to trade or
liberty. Banning the sale of
solvents to minors need wreak
no great havoc with Airfix
construction nor model-
building: genuine modellers
would need enlist only a parent,
other adult or older sibling. The
case for such a ban is well worth
examining.

Partnership in Antarctica

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article "South Atlantic Partners" (December 10) makes the constructive suggestion that the Falklands and their dependencies could, without any change of sovereignty, be turned into an Anglo-Argentine base for Antarctic exploration and development. But should you not take the proposal further?

Chile, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand also have claims on the Antarctic continent and obvious interests due to geographical proximity.

Could we not develop your concept to include these other interested parties, perhaps at the joint invitation of Britain and Argentina? Other signatories of the Antarctic Treaty might also like to take part.

Once the new airfield on the Falklands is fully developed and the harbour facilities improved, the islands might well prove to be the most convenient base available for Antarctic exploration as well as the meeting ground on which cooperation might resolve existing differences between Britain and the Argentine and the Argentine and Chile.

The Antarctic continent is generally thought to be a prolongation of the Andes and the southern African continent. There is, therefore, a distinct possibility that the mineral wealth of both may exist under the permafrost. Discovering it and then extracting it would be a challenging task but no more than landing a man on the Moon.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
December 13.

Examination results

From Professor Harvey Goldstein

Sir, The article by Ronald Butt (December 8) and your leader (December 1) on the exam results research of the National Council for Educational Standards (NCES) are critical of Department of Education and Science officials, but avoid the main issue.

The real research interest lies in whether the type of school attended (comprehensive, grammar or secondary modern) affects the examination results of pupils with different individual characteristics and backgrounds. In such analyses it is essential to allow for differences in individual achievement prior to secondary school entry to avoid the possibility that examination result differences are merely reflecting entry selection policies.

The NCES research used school average exam results rather than individual data and had no measures of achievement prior to entry. Such deficiencies make it markedly inferior to the recent National Children's Bureau (NCB) study of examination results which had intake measures on individual children and found few important school type differences.

The recently published criticisms of the NCES research by officials at the DES, which now have been substantiated by analyses in *Statistical Bulletin 16/83 (The Times, December 10)* pointed out that the NCES had made inadequate allowances for social class in studying the variation in examination results between Local Education Authorities. Because their measurements are at school or at LEA level only, however, neither the DES nor the NCES analyses can contribute much of value to the debate over school type comparisons.

If further research is to be funded, then it would be more useful, and cheaper, to exploit the NCB data than to pursue the use of school type comparisons.

Yours faithfully,
HARVEY GOLDSTEIN, Chairman,
Department of Mathematics
Statistics and Computing,
University of London
Institute of Education,
20 Bedford Way, WC1,
December 12.

Calke Abbey

From Mr J.Si Bodfan Gruffydd

Sir, What is "heritage landscape"? The Government is in a great mood to rebuild the Historic Buildings Council has collected information with a view to "listing" historic gardens and parks, while the Countryside Commission deal with more natural landscapes in national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Gardens and parks are deliberately designed and planned, whereas national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty cover the more natural parts of our country-side. The criteria for judging the two types are distinct and different. In considering the Calke ambience, which is very much garden/park landscape, however, the Secretary of State appears to rely on advice of the Countryside Commission.

Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, I read with interest David Wait's comments on December 9 about the film *The Day After*, and his speculation on whether the scientific prognosis of a nuclear winter is correct. Having participated in the background research in the United States during the past several months, I do not agree that there are "many uncertainties in the hypothesis" that warrant "understandable caution".

Both the physical and biological, teams run dozens of variations of their computerized models to check their findings, and they concluded that their analyses were reinforced time after time, with virtually no significant variations in the outcome. Whether we consider a 10,000-megaton or only a 1,000-megaton war, the results produce a nuclear winter. In certain circumstances mere 100 megatons can trigger a similar phenomenon (Britain possesses more than 100 megatons).

The papers, being published in the major American journal *Science*, have undergone unusually rigorous appraisal through extensive peer review. If one can be permitted the phrase, there is an "overkill" of supporting evidence to justify the findings. Several independent research efforts have come up with parallel results.

To quote the summary of the biological paper, authored by 20 leading scientists from several countries, "It is clear that the ecosystem effects alone resulting from a large-scale thermonuclear war could be enough to destroy the current civilisation in at least the northern hemisphere... the combined intermediate and long-term effects of nuclear war suggest that eventually there might be no human survivors in the northern hemisphere."

All this reiterates a key question. Can government leaders afford to continue with their present response to the nuclear threat, with the new risks of a nuclear winter - precisely at a time when more weapons are being deployed? Or should they not rather consider the alternative risks of taking a closer look at whatever measures are necessary to throw the

State subsidies for the arts

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, Frank Johnson (December 13) quotes Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, asking the familiar question about the arts, "why is it so essential to civilization for the taxpayer to subsidize activities which are so unpopular with the majority of the public?" Let me try to answer.

From an economic point of view the live performing arts are an activity in which technology is static, so that labour productivity cannot be improved in line with advances in the surrounding economy. It takes just as long, and requires exactly the same equipment and labour, to play a Beethoven symphony today as it did when the work was first performed in 1810.

But because the wages paid to volunteer musicians inevitably reflect the higher wage levels made possible since that time by technical progress elsewhere in the economy, activities which may have been viable in the market place in 1810 have long since ceased to be so (and even at that time they enjoyed special patronage). Nevertheless, while the technology of performance has stood still, there has been great technical progress in the communication of performance: radio, gramophone records, television, video. The economic value to Britain of these technologies is indisputable: exports of films and television programmes in 1981 were worth £144m and in the same year earned £30m. There are also the earnings from tourism. Excellence in the live performing arts is essential to the vitality of these industries.

However, because of economic specialization there is no inbuilt mechanism, with the notable exception of the BBC, by which profits earned by communication are directed to nourishing the culture of performance upon which those profits depend. This is why live performance has come to rely on the transfer through state subsidy of a small portion of the taxes levied on those profits.

Of course we have to make decisions, which will be essentially arbitrary, about how much to spend on state subsidies to the arts, just as Prince Esterhazy had to allocate resources between his Kappelmeister and his kitchen. But in a truly educated society it would not be necessary to deploy the sort of means/ends argument of this letter to justify support for activities which are an end in themselves and in the enhancement of the life of all of they touch.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT JACKSON,
House of Commons,
December 15.

Prosecution by stores

From Mr Recorder C. W. L. Jervis

Sir, Parliament can so easily create the simple and absolute (i.e., without proof of dishonesty) offence of taking goods from a shop without payment, and make it triable only before magistrates. If such an offence is allowed to run side by side with theft, the prosecutor has a choice.

The real thieves are charged with theft; the absent-minded old folk with the lesser offence to which they can plead guilty without fear of social disgrace and take care not to do it again. Much distress and public expense will thereby be saved.

Yours faithfully,
C. W. L. JERVIS,
R&S-Vale,
St Buryan,
Penzance,
Cornwall,
December 9.

Missing the bus

From Mrs Fiona E. Hamilton

Sir, May I suggest that a possible solution to the plight of the villagers of Swanton Morley (report, December 9) might be the operation of a route taxi system?

As practised in some parts of the West Indies, this consists of a number of taxis licensed to operate on certain agreed routes, with prefixed fares per seat per journey. In this way the cost per person is kept down to a reasonable level and the taxi drivers can be expected to be quick to establish when there is the greatest demand.

Yours faithfully,
FIONA E. HAMILTON,
6 Redburn Street, SW3,
December 9.

Law of Sea Treaty

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, May I underline the argument of the President of the General Council of British Stippling (November 16)? This country, with a handful of others, hesitates to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because of the (admitted) imperfections of the clauses governing seabed mining.

Letters to the Editor

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, The correspondence to save Calke Abbey and the adjournment debate in the Commons on December 6 all point to the same conclusion: time is needed to work out a new scheme to preserve the house, its contents and park. And the tax bill is mounting up for the Harpur-Crewe trustees at around £1,300 a day.

Both trustees and Government are in a way to blame, for both took action in a year to reach decisions.

Will the Government consider forgoing this sum for, say, four months with a deadline date? By this date a new scheme must be hammered out by one and all concerned, including the Government.

In the words of the Under-Secretary of State for the Environment: "The Government are prepared and willing to listen to and consider positive suggestions".

The deadline should stimulate the quick finding of a scheme to save Calke for future generations. Waiving of interest meantime could be counted as part of the limited public assistance already offered.

Yours truly,
PETER FARR,
House of Lords,
December 8.

Archive uncertainty

From Mr Victor Gray

Sir, Mr Murray (December 6) does well to draw the attention of your readers to the fate of the Greater London Record Office, whatever that fate may be. So far not a whisper has emerged from Whitehall to expand upon the "special provisions" so coyly promised in the White Paper, *Streamlining the Cities*.

It is to be earnestly hoped that, whatever plans may emerge for the administration of GLRO, they will involve no thought of dismembering the tremendously rich and important collection or archives for the history of London, so assiduously built up over three quarters of a century. Such a scattering could only be considered by anyone with a modicum of interest in the history of the capital as an act of the grossest vandalism.

It is surely unthinkable that London should have no repository specifically and wholly devoted to the safe-keeping of its written history.

At the same time, historians of English provincial history would be advised to consider the effect of the Government's proposals on archive services within the metropolitan counties. Here the Government's thoughts on the future seem equally vague, involving the devolution of collections to one of the districts and calling for co-operative ventures between district councils.

It does seem that archives, like other areas of cultural service highlighted in your columns over recent months, are to be dragged by the scruff of their neck and squeezed into the new pattern. So be it. But let no one pretend that what comes out at the end of the day will be better or even as good as present arrangements; or that an equivalent service will be provided more cheaply; or that the arrangement will be more rational. Certainly, let no one suggest that it is streamlining!

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR GRAY,
Association of County Archivists,
As from: Essex Record Office,
County Hall,
Chelmsford,
Essex,
December 8.

Law of Sea Treaty

From Mr Peter Farr

Sir, May I underline the argument of the President of the General Council of British Stippling (November 16)? This country, with a handful of others, hesitates to sign the Law of the Sea Treaty because of the (admitted) imperfections of the clauses governing seabed mining.

The economic and commercial arguments for proceeding with the mining of deep-sea nodules at any time in this century are looking less and less plausible, however optimistic a view is taken of the prospects for general economic recovery.

During the last few years, the intensity-of-use of the basic industrial metals (the quantity needed for each unit of GDP) has fallen sharply. Some decline has historically happened in advanced economies and mature markets; the recent fall has, however, gone further and more quickly than the historical trend.

The inevitable consequence of this is that forecasts of demand for metals must be lowered.

We have in fact already seen this in the case of steel. As recently as 18 months ago, world demand for crude steel in 1990 was confidently forecast to be around 1,000 million tonnes; few authorities now expect it to be much over 800 million. Forecasts for consumption of

manganese (which is wholly dependent on crude steel output) must consequently be lowered.

The economics of nodule mining depend on the existence of secure markets for all three major nodule constituents - cobalt, nickel and manganese. If demand for any one of them is as insecure as is that for manganese, the economic case for nodule mining fails. Is it not, therefore time for this country to cease obstructing the interests of those - such as the shipowners - for whom the Law of the Sea Treaty is of immediate and pressing concern?

Yours faithfully,
PETER FARR,
O.W. Roskill Industrial Consultants,
2 Clapham Road, SW9,
November 21.

A fine point

From Mr P. J. Bourke

Sir, Are not an injunction to stop violent protest by CND at Greenham Common, and fines if they do not, as justified and necessary as those against the NGA at Warrington?

Yours faithfully,
P. J. BOURKE,
Waverley,
Pickler's Hill,
Abingdon,
Oxfordshire,
December 12.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 15: The Hon S. J. J. (Secretary of State, Canada) had the honour of being received by the Queen this morning.

and bade farewell to his excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE December 15: The Prince of Wales this evening gave a reception at Kensington Palace in aid of The Prince of Wales's Award for Industrial Innovation and Production.

KENSINGTON PALACE December 15: The Duke of Gloucester this morning visited Westbury and District Hospital and later opened Laverton Almshouses, Westbury, Wiltshire.

His Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE December 15: The Duke of Kent, a Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference (UK Fund), this morning attended a Meeting of the Trustees which was held at 18 Welbeck Way, London W1.

THATCHER HOUSE LODGE December 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham, London SE26.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance. In the evening, Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the Olympia International Show Jumping Championships.

The Princess of Wales will open the new Extra Care Centre at Abbeyfield Down House, Withington, Manchester, on December 20.

The Duchess of Kent will visit the Norwich Institution for the Blind, Norwich on January 10. A memorial service for the Hon Denis Berry will be held today at 11.30 at the Grand Priory Church, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell.



The Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire who yesterday married Linda, Viscountess Bridport at Basingstoke Register Office, Hampshire. The earl lives at Charlton Park, Malmesbury, Wiltshire and the bride's family home is at Nutley, Hampshire. It is the earl's third marriage.

Memorial services

Sir John and Lady Fisher The Duke of Edinburgh, Permanent Master of the Shipwrights' Company, was represented by the Prime Minister, Sir Charles Alexander, at a memorial service for Sir John and Lady Fisher held yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry-nex-Guildhall.

Luncheon

Royal College of Surgeons of England Professor Geoffrey Slaney, President of the Royal College, yesterday entertained at luncheon at the college Sir Austin Bide, Mr James G. Gulliver, Mr Robert Maxwell and Professor Harold Ellis.

Dinners

HM Government Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a dinner given at 1, Cannon Gardens in honour of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and Frau Ruhfus.

Farrington Ward Club

Farrington Ward Club held a dinner yesterday in the Great Hall, St Bartholomew's Hospital, Mr Anthony Eckstein, president, presiding. The guests included Mrs Eckstein, Mr Christopher Murray of La Glinette, St Aubin, and Zoe Viscountess Hardinge, daughter of Senator H de M Molson, of Montreal, Canada.

Indo-British Association

The annual dinner of the Indo-British Association was held yesterday at the Dorchester hotel. The guests were received by Mr and Mrs Swraj Paul and Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP, presiding.

Honourable Society of the Knights of the Round Table

Lord Marshall of Leeds presided for the Association's dinner held on Tuesday, at the Athenaeum. The occasion marked the founding of the society's Rugg Award for debating at the Leys School, Cambridge which was awarded to Toby Morse, who introduced a debate on the English Gentleman.

University news

Manchester L. H. Hillier, BSc, PhD(Lond), has been appointed to a personal chair in chemistry from December 1. C. C. Kiernan, BA(Nott), PhD(Lond), deputy director of Thomas Coram Research Unit, London University Institute of Education, to be director of the Hester Adrian Research Centre from a date to be arranged.

Church news

APPOINTMENTS The Rev W. J. Butler, vicar of St Andrew's, Oxford, to be also rural dean of the Diocese of Oxford. The Rev R. J. G. Jones, vicar of St James, London, to be also rural dean of the Diocese of London. The Rev J. J. G. Jones, vicar of St James, London, to be also rural dean of the Diocese of London.

Science report

Dispelling myths about first-born children

The oldest child in a family is the object of great attention and high expectation by its parents. Hence the first born becomes a self-critical perfectionist who is most likely to succeed. Middle children, while the most popular in their school and neighbourhood, "can feel neglected and embark on an endless search for a sense of belonging".

Marriages

Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and Linda, Viscountess Bridport. The engagement is announced between Peter-Barrie, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P Fitzpatrick, of Woking, Surrey, and Jacqueline Anne, eldest daughter of wing commander and Mrs J. R. Johnson, of Bielefeld and Rugely, Staffordshire.

Soirée

Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council The Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council (formerly CCOCK) held a Christmas soiree yesterday as a tribute to their president, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and Lady Howe at 100 Park Lane (by courtesy of Mr Sydney Mason). The guests, who were received by Sir Geoffrey and Lady Howe, Mr Tim Renton, MP, and Mrs Renton and Mrs Edward de la Motte, included:

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Malcolm Curtis to be general secretary of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals in July, 1984, in succession to Mr Elgar Bowling.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Harold Bailey, 84; Mr N. C. Blaney, 69; Mr R. F. Brown, 72; Mr Arthur C. Clark, 66; Judge Myrella Cohen, 56; the Hon Peter Dickinson, 56; Major G. J. Graham-Green, 77; Sir Jasper Holm, 66; Lord Margadale, 77; Mr J. H. F. Monahan, 71; Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Norris, 83; Air Chief Marshal Sir Hubert Patch, 79; Sir Victor Pritchett, 83; Lieutenant General Sir David Scott-Barrett, 61; Sir John Thompson, 76; Miss Jacqueline Thwaites, 52; Miss Liv Ullmann, 45; Dr Jan van Loewen, 82.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. J. Faraham and Miss H. M. Charrington The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr R. Faraham and Mrs D. Faraham, of 504 Dolphin Square, London, SW1, and Henrietta, daughter of Major R. E. Phillips and Mrs Marigold Charrington, of Winchfield House, Winchfield, Hampshire.

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OBITUARY

LORD AMULREE

Medical care of old people

Lord Amulree, KBE, who died on December 15 at the age of 83, was a qualified doctor who took a special interest in the problems of old people, and was active on medical questions both in the House of Lords and outside.

DR S. CLOTWORTHY

Dr Stanley Clotworthy, CBE, who died on December 6 at the age of 81, was Senior Professor of the University of Southampton, an appointment he held from 1972, after a successful career in the aluminium industry during which he had been chairman of Alcan Industries Ltd and Alcan Aluminium (UK) Ltd.

MR THEODORE CROMBIE

A correspondent writes: The death occurred in London on December 6 of Theodore Crombie, the art historian, at the age of 71. He was an authority on Spanish Old Master paintings, especially those of Velasquez and Goya, and was in demand as an authenticator and valuer of private collections. He was a trustee of the William De Morgan Trust.

JANOS FLESCH

Janos Flesch, the Hungarian grandmaster who was killed in a car accident with his wife Lidiko on December 10, Flesch, who was 50, was in this country, playing in the Ramsgate International Chess Tournament.

SIR ANTONY GUY ACLAND

Major Sir Antony Guy Acland, 5th Baronet, who died on December 14, served in the Royal Artillery for 21 years from 1937, and then joined Saunders-Roe as a rocket engineer. The projects on which he worked included the Black Knight and Black Arrow research rockets.

DR R. SZYDLOWSKI

Dr Roman Szydlowski, the Polish theatre critic, translator and author, who was President of the International Theatre Critics' Association from 1969 to 1975, has died in Warsaw at the age of 65.

Sir John Hedges, CBE

Sir John Hedges, CBE, who died on December 14, was chairman of the Berkshire Area Health Authority from 1973 to 1979.

Colonel J. A. Sullivan, OBE

Colonel J. A. Sullivan, OBE, who died on November 21 at the age of 67, was a former General Manager of the Milford Haven Conservancy Board, and High Sheriff of Dyfed.

Latest wills

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Ernest Edward De Winton Wills, 4th Bt, of Mount Prosperous, Hungerford, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,340,017 net. He left his property to his wife and issue. Mrs Elizabeth Jowett, of Wollaton Park, Nottingham, left estate valued at £281,115 net. After various bequests she left the residue equally between the British Heart Foundation, Royal Midland Institution

for the Blind, Nottingham, Leukaemia Research Fund and the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Janet Sarah Blodwen, of Stowe, Buckinghamshire, intestate £216,336. Smith Mr Lynn, of Havering-atte-Bow, London, £304,438. Talbot Mr Mervyn, of Stanmore, London, £290,870.

[ADVERTISEMENT]

Must the lights stay dim for Elsie this Christmas

She's a plucky 81 year-old, but this Christmas she faces what will seem "the loneliest day of her life". No family, because she has none left. And no-one to visit her. All the happy gatherings will be in other people's homes, and the lights in other windows. Christmas seems a bleak day when you're lonely and forgotten in a chilly room.

Help us change that. With another Day Centre that brings old people the good companionship and friendly help of a place where they can meet every day of the year. £5 will bring practical help to a lonely old person. £25 will assist a Day Centre. £100 will help put a Minibus on the road. £100 will bring Christmas joy to many who would otherwise have nothing.

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR SHARING AND CARING.

Please give generously this Christmas and, if you can manage it - send early please, because your donation will be put to use immediately. To: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T1009, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ (no stamp needed). Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

FINANCE EXECUTIVE Tighten up give R... Request by Allianz rejected... NEWS IN BRIEF... Stalemate at the Savoy... TIF's members...

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Tight money rein could give Reagan rough ride

The White House view is that the American economy will grow about 4.5 per cent next year. This projection has still to be stamped by President Reagan who will release it and other estimates in his 1985 budget message to Congress early in February. Administration economists working on the budget are convinced that this rate of growth can be achieved provided the US Federal Reserve Board does not keep money growth on too tight a rein. Their fears are not without foundation. The influential Mr Henry Kaufman of Salomon Brothers predicted yesterday that the Federal Reserve would move quickly in 1984 to tighten monetary policy. This will result, in his opinion, in a slowing of economic growth until late 1984 and an erratic rise in US interest rates.

For several weeks senior Administration officials have expressed fears that the Fed may already have tightened policy too much in its effort to prevent a rekindling of inflation. They have warned the White House that because of the considerable length of time the economy needs to respond to the central bank's actions a sharp slowdown could become apparent in November, just two weeks before the presidential elections, when figures are released for the quarter ending September 30.

Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, reflected these fears in a speech this week at the Washington Press Club, in which he said: "The Fed wants to cool this economy before it overheats and we get inflation back. They have been tightening for the last six months. My concern is that they not overdo it."

The Administration economists are also reported to have forecast a huge federal budget deficit in the neighbourhood of \$200 billion. The prospect of a series of mammoth budget deficits is one reason why Mr Kaufman is looking for a rise in interest rates. He has lent his voice to calls for action to reduce the deficit. President Reagan, however, has ruled out a significant tax increase in his next budget. He said yesterday that he did not intend to raise taxes in 1984 but he left the door open for some sort of a "tax package" in later years.

Although both the president and Administration economists have played down the importance of Federal budget deficits, they were singled out specifically by M Jacques De Larosière, head of the International Monetary Fund, in a speech in Chicago yesterday. M De Larosière said a primary aim of the IMF in the coming year would be to force member nations to place special emphasis in reducing fiscal deficits which threaten to "crowd out" private investors just as the global recovery gathers momentum. That should please Mrs Thatcher.

Stalemate at the Savoy

Trusthouse Forte went to great lengths yesterday to emphasize that it was not its current intention to make a further offer for Savoy Hotel. This rider came after THF, in agreement with the Takeover Panel, had disclosed that it had bought from the investment arm of S G Warburg, THF's merchant bank, a further 1.137 million Savoy A shares. The deal was struck on Friday and most of it was executed outside the market. THF would not reveal the price.

The additional shares raise THF's interest in the Savoy equity to 69 per cent. The number of votes it has rises from 40.2 per cent of 42.3 per cent.

Savoy Hotel's two-tier equity structure leaves THF in a unique position: two-thirds of Savoy profits and dividends fall to THF, but control still rests with Sir Hugh Wontner and the Savoy board who would prefer Lord Forte to fold up his tent and leave their gate. In March two years ago Lord Forte, then Sir Charles, bid £58m and then £67m for Savoy Hotel - the company also owns the Connaught, Claridge's and the Berkeley - but the citadel did not fall. Nor will it as long as the B shares, which make up a small proportion of the share capital but a large part of the voting power (the A shares have a tenth of a vote whereas every five B shares carry 10 votes) remain in firm and friendly hands. The most important of these belong to Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, but Lady Ellerman's holding is the critical one. If Lord Forte could charm hers from her, he could be within an ace of winning the game.

Lord Forte appears to be as determined as ever to own Savoy Hotel but he has admitted that the present situation cannot continue indefinitely. It is a costly stalemate for THF and frustrating for the Savoy. The good so far that has come out of the clash is a much more determined and commercially successful Savoy management.

Invisibles: the unauthorized text

Two versions of a Department of Trade and Industry-sponsored report, *Success in Invisibles*, will be published today. The first, about 25 pages long, comes from the DTI itself. The second, from the author, Mr Andrew Tessler, is three times as long and contains criticisms that do not appear in the official text.

The report deals with all invisibles but it concentrates on the most dynamic sector of all: the professions - consulting engineers, architects, management consultants, surveyors, lawyers. Their overseas earnings have increased twentyfold in just over 10 years and are now worth £1 billion a year. At the present rate of growth, they would be worth £2 billion in six years.

The chances of that happening, Mr Tessler argues, are being diminished by the Government itself through the tax system. Firms largely made up of partners are taxed on a personal basis. Nationalized industries, which have developed their own agencies are alleged to be under-cutting private sector firms by unfair means.

Mr Tessler found that British partnerships which find it virtually impossible to raise venture capital have to spend between £60,000 and £80,000 each time they want to bid for a new contract overseas. These down-payments, without any guarantee of success or return, have to be met out of taxed income. He cites instances where tax is levied twice on the same earnings.

New Argentine government calls for debt moratorium

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Bailey Morris

Argentina's new Government has asked its commercial bank creditors for a moratorium on debt payments, it emerged yesterday. However, there was confusion in banking circles over the exact nature of the request.

Reports from Buenos Aires said that Argentina wanted a six-month delay on payments on its \$40 billion external debt. But bankers in London suggested that a 90-day moratorium on principle payments was more likely.

Bankers interpreted the action of the civilian government, which formally assumed power only on Saturday, as a prelude to a new round of debt-rescheduling negotiations on which the new ministers wanted to stamp their mark.

London banking sources said that Argentina would want to defer scheduling public-sector debt-rescheduling agreements nego-

tiated by the previous government. It was likely to press for more favourable terms on the refinancing of \$4 billion to \$5 billion of public-sector debt maturities due in 1984 and 1985.

Senior Bernardo Grispun, Economy Minister, is reported to have said in Buenos Aires yesterday that Argentina would postpone any new payments on its foreign debt until June 30, 1984. By that date, the country hoped to have completed reschedulings for 1984 maturities.

Although debt negotiation with the Argentines has caused considerable problems for the banks over the past year, bankers are reasonably relaxed about reaching new agreements with the civilian government. Indeed, the return to civilian rule has been seen as a hopeful sign.

But the road to stability has only just begun. The government must move quickly to restore order to a chaotic economy plagued not only by a big foreign debt but also by a lack of domestic spending priorities and by hidden costs from arms purchases made by the former military junta.

This was the assessment of senior US officials who returned this week from the inauguration ceremonies in Buenos Aires with a cautiously optimistic view of what lies ahead for President Raul Alfonsín's government.

US officials said that they were impressed by the his seasoned economic team and by his strong political commitment to a tough economic austerity programme designed to halve the huge deficit, estimated at 14 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

Top priorities of the new government according to Mr McNamar will be to improve relations with commercial banks, which hold the bulk of its \$40 billion debt, and to put in place an economic programme would be acceptable to the International Monetary Fund.

This would involve settlement, through either legislation or court action, of a series of difficult legal questions which poisoned Argentina's relations with its foreign debtors during the Falklands war, Mr McNamar said.

It appears that the new government would need short-term financial help of only \$3 billion in new commercial funds in order to get the economy back on its feet before undertaking a full-scale restructuring of its outstanding foreign debt, he said.

Pound rally helps gilts

A recovering pound put new life into the gilt market yesterday. Despite being down by about 25p early in the day, gilts closed 12p up on the strength of sterling. The pound itself gained 55 points against the dollar at \$1.4225. Meanwhile, the FT Index put up a firm performance, despite a weak opening on Wall Street. It closed 1.7 up at 752.8. Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 752.8 up 1.7
FT Gilts: 82.26 down 0.04
FT AB Shares: 483.65 up 0.38
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.17 down 0.17
New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1241.26 down 5.39
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9462.48 up 61.28
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 869.88 down 4.88

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4225 up 55pts
Index 82.0 up 0.2
DM 2.9400 up 0.0175
FFr 12.0050 up 0.0525
Yen 334.50 up 1.25
Dollar Index 130.7 down 0.1
DM 2.7670 up 0.0020
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4235
Dollar DM 2.7705
INTERMARKET
ECU: 0.754744
SDRE: 0.733505

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans week fixed 8/8
3 month interbank 9/4-9/8
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10/16-10/15
3 month DM 6/16-6/16
3 month Ffr 13-3/4-13/4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9/8
Treasury long bond 99/4-99/8

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$369.60 pm \$369.75
close \$368.75-369.50 (£273.50-274.00)
New York latest: \$381.75
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$400.50-402.00 (£281.75-282.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$91.00-92.00 (£64.00-64.75)
*Excludes VAT

Industry set to invest more

By Our Financial Staff

Government hopes that higher investment will help to keep the economy moving ahead as the impetus from consumer spending slackens is expected to be replaced by the latest survey of investment intentions by the Department of Trade and Industry.

This shows that industry plans to step up investment by about 7 per cent in 1984 with an even sharper rise by the manufacturing sector. In manufacturing, capital spending, including investment financed through leasing, is expected to show a 9 per cent volume rise in 1984 compared with this year.

The DTI survey is considerably more optimistic than the predictions of the Confederation of British Industry and is a surprise to many outside forecasters.

It will be particularly welcome to the Government because recent figures have shown manufacturing production remaining flat and investment sluggish. Revised third-quarter capital spending figures issued yesterday disclose a fall of more than 1 per cent in manufacturing investment in the latest six months compared with six months earlier.

The DTI survey also suggests that there will be a further, though smaller, increase in the volume of investment in 1985.

However, the latest cyclical indicators for the economy published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office give no firm indication that the recovery is likely to gather pace.

Between July and October, the longer leading index, which is supposed to chart movements in the economy 12 months ahead, showed a decline. Incomplete information for November suggests a slight rise in the index.

Sterling recovers to \$1.42

By Our Banking Correspondent

Sterling clawed back some ground on the foreign exchanges yesterday as further heavy intervention by the West German central bank helped to restrain the dollar.

Speculation of higher British interest rates also helped the pound - although there is no indication that the authorities are contemplating a rise - as did the previous day's news that BINC has proposed no change in its North Sea oil prices for the first quarter of next year.

The pound closed up 55 points against the dollar at \$1.4225 and firmed against other leading currencies. It rose by 1 1/2 pfennigs against the Deutsche mark to DM 3.94 and its trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies finished the day up 0.2 at 81.0.

Dealers believe the huge dollar sales by the German authorities to protect the currency will do little to change the underlying strength of the dollar, but they are nevertheless nervous of being caught out. The dollar closed in London yesterday only 20 points higher against the mark at DM2.7670.

The German central bank does not disclose the extent of its intervention in the open market, but it is believed to have spent well over \$500m in the past two days or so in trying to check the dollar.

Surprise £15m fall in Distillers profits

By Jeremy Warner

The Distillers Company, the Scotch whisky group, yesterday sprung a surprise on the City by announcing sharply lower half-year profits.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to the end of September fell to £80.2m to £64.9m, on sales £8.3m higher at £493m. The company said last July that its profits would fall this year, but nobody foresaw the scale of the downturn.

The profits were struck after charges of £4.3m for redundancy and closure costs. The chairman, Mr John Connell, said that trading profits in the second half were unlikely to compare favourably with the strong performance of the same period last year.

The company's share price fell 12p to 218p after news of the results, wiping £44m off the group's stock market value.

Mr Robert Temple, a Distillers' director, cited weak demand for whisky in the Latin American and Middle East markets as the main reason for the fall in profits.

The volume of sales to parts of these markets has as much halved so far this year. The effect of this on profits has been severe, since it was very high-margin de-luxe whiskies that tended to sell best in the once

London Brick in £8m deals

London Brick is buying two small regional brickmakers for £8.25m in line with its policy of trying to build a fifth force in the non-fleiton facing brick market. The company has a monopoly of fletton brick making, but has only a small share of the market for other bricks.

It is paying £6.25m in cash for the Milton Hall Brick Company, a subsidiary of the Southend Estates property group. Milton is a leading producer of "London stock bricks".

It is also paying £2m, mainly in shares, for Cloughton Manor Brick, a leading manufacturer in North-west England of frost resistant bricks.

buoyant markets such as Venezuela and Mexico. In most other areas of the world, Distillers has done no worse than the industry as a whole, and in some markets, notably the United States, it claims to have done better. The strength of the dollar has had a dramatic impact on the profitability of exports to the US. Profits are said to be about £5m higher than they would have been had last year's exchange rates ruled at the end of September.

The group gave a cautious indication that the worse may now be over for the Scotch industry. Recent reports from a number of markets suggest that the decline in consumer demand is levelling off and the company is hoping for a gradual recovery next year.

In contrast to the poor performance from whisky, the group's much smaller white spirits business improved trading profits, helped by a big rise in exports of Tanqueray gin to the US. The product is now challenging Beefeater as the top selling imported gin in the US.

United Glass, the group's 50-per-cent-owned glass container manufacturing company, reported a £4m loss after providing for rationalization costs.

ICI sells stake in Vantona

By Michael Clark

ICI finally severed its connections with the textile industry yesterday by selling its entire stake in Vantona Viyella.

The group is selling 7 million shares in the company at 148p each, amounting to just under 20 per cent of the total issued equity and valuing the entire stake at £10.36m. The shares are being placed with financial institutions by the merchant bank N. M. Rothschild and the broker Hoare & Covert.

ICI obtained its shares in Vantona Viyella when Carrington Viyella, in which it owned a sizable stake, merged with Mr David Alliance's Vantona earlier this year.

Shares of ICI slipped 4p to 650p on the news, but later recovered to close only 2p down at 652p. The sale met with mixed reactions in the City, with observers expressing surprise at ICI's timing.

It now looks as though the textile industry is starting to pull clear of the recession. Yesterday, Mr Alliance, chairman of Vantona Viyella, took the opportunity to forecast a leap in pre-tax profits for the present year from £4.3m to £11m.

Mr Alliance said that he was pleased with ICI's decision to sell, having wanted it to place the stake.

ICI says that one reason for selling now was to help improve the group's tax position as the financial year draws to a close. But the group was known to have been unhappy with its investment: it had supported the loss-making Carrington Viyella for years.

Mr Alliance intends to take up 250,000 of the shares on offer. This is in addition to the shares he will be entitled to take up as Vantona's biggest shareholder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Request by Allianz rejected

Eagle Star has given a final rejection to requests from Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance group, for further information about its business. Allianz had said that failure to supply the information could result in its offering Eagle Star shareholders a lower price for their shares.

But Eagle Star's chairman, Sir Denis Mountain has declined to disclose details of the company's 1984 budget, saying it was impossible to quantify the effect of a change of control on the group's business and that provision of the figures could lead to them being treated with a degree of accuracy that would be inappropriate.

The pay of Mr Michael Hollingbery, the chairman and chief executive of Comet Group, the electrical retailer, increased from £72,000 to £122,000, excluding pension contributions, last year. The salary of the unnamed highest paid director increased from £83,000 to £194,000. The increases follow last year's record profits of £19.5m.

Unigate's profits increased from £15.3m to a record £23.6m in the first half of the year on a turnover up from £787m to £855m. The interim dividend has been increased from 2.5p to 2.75p.

Investors' Notebook, page 19

Rediffusion Simulation, owned by British Electric Traction, yesterday announced its first big contract with British Airways for a full flight simulator for its new Boeing 737s. The £4.5m order was the first contract won by the British company from BA in several years, and came only after it dislodged a Canadian rival during several months of negotiations.

WALL STREET

Losses increase

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Losses were slowly increasing in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by more than 6 points to 1,240 and the Transportation Average had fallen by about 5 points to 589.

General Motors fell 1/4 to 73 1/2, Honeywell was off 1/2 at 134 1/2, Texas Oil down 1/4 at 42 1/2, Getty Oil up 1/4 to 78 1/2, Exxon 1/4 lower at 37 1/2, International Business Machines off 1/4 at 120 1/2 and Union Carbide unchanged at 62 1/2.

Reed questions bid rebuff

By Jonathan Clark

Reed Stenhouse has told shareholders in Stenhouse Holdings to ask their board and financial advisers why they have rejected Reed's bid terms when they said during negotiations that they were "recommendable".

The suggestion by Reed plays on the uncertainties within the Stenhouse board which culminated in the resignation of Mr Bert Houghton, a former chairman, last week because he believed the terms should be accepted.

Reed also tells shareholders in a document despatched yesterday to ask what advice was given to the board by Noble Grossart, the merchant bank. Noble is 20 per cent owned by Stenhouse and is its long-term adviser. But Stenhouse is currently using J. Henry Schroder Wragg's services.

Reed, a Canadian insurance broker, has bid £53m for Stenhouse, the Glasgow-based broker.

Yesterday Schroder said the offer could not be recommended because negotiations "never got to terms".

Meanwhile, talks have once again been postponed between the BSC and United States Steel over the proposed controversial joint venture to sell Scottish steel slabs to United States Steel's Fairless finishing mill.

A final decision was expected after a meeting on Wednesday in New York between Mr Robert Haslam, BSC chairman, and Mr David Roderick, chairman of United States Steel. But, according to a brief BSC statement, "a final outcome has not yet emerged".

A conclusion is expected to be reached in January. Steel production in Britain's public and private sectors averaged 310,000 tonnes a week in November, a rise of 2.5 per cent on the previous month and 31.6 per cent up on a year ago. For the first 11 months of the year, output averaged 292,200 tonnes a week, a rise of 7 per cent on the depressed levels of 1982.

Private producers attack Minister

Steel sell-off 'going too slowly'

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, yesterday clashed with Britain's private sector steel industry over allegations that the Government was dragging its feet over the promised privatisation of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Lamont was criticised at the annual lunch of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association by the president, Mr Peter Lee. Mr Lee said that apart from some welcome exceptions, the government had made little progress in returning the steel industry to private hands.

He said that despite the understandable difficulties, the need for Britain to have a viable and efficient steel-producing industry, independent of public subsidy, was as vital as ever. "We believe that the failure of the Government to ensure that priority was being given to its stated policy has made the task more difficult and progress has been unnecessarily slow."

Mr Lamont, who is representing the government in the latest round of European Community talks aimed at



Norman Lamont: "Difficult to find private-sector cash"

be rationalized. Plans are already well advanced for a "Phoenix" company covering the engineering steels sector, to be formed from public and private interests. But that would still leave 10 per cent of BSC products competing with the private sector.

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PROFIT UP 40% Interim dividend increased by 15%
Unaudited half year 30.10.83 £m 348.0
Unaudited half year 31.10.82 £m 319.4
Audited year to 15.83 £m 641.8
Turnover 348.0 319.4 641.8
Operating profit 35.3 28.6 52.0
Pre-tax profit 31.6 22.5 41.1
Dividend per share 1.73p 1.50p 4.66p
Earnings per share 7.7p 4.8p 9.4p
Extracts from the Directors' Interim Statement:
★ The Company has enjoyed a successful six months' trading
★ Turnover rose by 9%
★ Pre-tax profit increased by 40%
★ Beer sales helped by good summer... canned beer business continued to grow
★ Thistle Hotels operating profit up 90%
★ Borrowings continued to fall on rising investment programme
Copies of the full Interim Report may be obtained from the Secretary, Scottish & Newcastle Breweries plc, Abbey Brewery, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8YS. Telephone: 031-556 2591

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Trident shares tipped

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 6.

The decision of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block the proposed merger of Trident Television and Pleasurama earlier this week has not deterred everyone.

At least that is the view of broker Kitcat & Aitken, which is recommending the shares of Trident as a "buy" to its clients. Kitcat is confident that another bid for the group may be just around the corner and this time might receive the blessings of the Monopolies Commission. Kitcat refuses to name names, but the market has its own thoughts on the subject.

Top of the list Aspinall's - a client of Kitcat & Aitken - which yesterday announced it had increased its holding in Anglo Scottish Investment with the purchase of an extra 1.48 million shares. This takes Aspinall's total stake to 4.78 million shares, about 15 per cent of the shares, and it is reckoned a full bid may soon follow.

Aspinall's, the Knightsbridge casino group previously jointly owned by zoo owner Mr John Aspinall and financier Sir

James Goldsmith, joined the Unlisted Securities Market in November raising almost £9m in the process.

Last night shares of Trident closed unchanged at 118p valuing the company at £57m. Aspinall's refused to be drawn on the subject.

Broker Jacobson Townsley has been a big fan of shares of Saatchi & Saatchi following recent figures showing pretax profits last year doubled at £11.2m and regard them as outstanding value. For the present year JT is looking for pretax profits of £15m earnings of 30p selling on a P/E of 17. The shares rose 5p to 515p yesterday.

The rest of the equity market put up a solid performance despite the overnight setback on Wall Street and the low level of turnover which has affected the

market in the run up to Christmas. The FT Index having fluctuated in narrow limits throughout most of the day closed 1.7 up at 752.8.

Once again there was solid support for blue chips where US investors continue to take more than a passing interest. Imperial Chemical Industries has been a particular favourite and Wall Street investors now own around 15 per cent of the shares in the form of American depositary receipts. But yesterday the shares slipped 2p to 65p as the group announced plans to sell off its entire 20 per cent stake in Vantona Vixella amounting to 7.1 million shares at 148p a share.

The star turn was again reserved for BOC Group following recent figures. The shares jumped 19p to a record 295p as American investors managed to pick up about 500,000 shares in a thin market.

Hefty gains were also seen in Hawker Siddeley 10p up at 358p, Plessey 5p at 237p and TI Group 8p at 164p.

There was late support for the pound on the foreign exchange and this was good news for gilt

Shares of consolidated Murchison, the South African antimony mining group, hit a second 65p in London yesterday - a rise of more than 120p in the past three weeks. Dealers report heavy support for the shares from the Cape and there is now talk of a bid of about £10 a share. At this level the group is valued at £41m.

with prices recovering earlier losses to show gains of up to 12p in longs, while at the shorter end prices were generally unchanged up at £1.4225. Second liners saw GRA Group, which owns most of the

greyhound racing stadiums in this country, spurt 4p to a new high for the year of 47p on renewed support by two leading brokers. Reports suggest the group is about to strengthen the board still further and the name of Mr Jeffrey Sterling, of P & O and Town & City, has been put in the frame.

There are also suggestions that GRA may be on the verge of clinching a deal to sell-off some of its vast property portfolio to one of the big supermarket chains. Both GRA and Mr Sterling were unavailable for comment.

Among insurance brokers Mitsui Holdings rose 1p to 143p ahead of nine month figures due shortly. Analysts are looking for pretax profits of between £15m and £17m compared with the corresponding figure of £13m.

Moray Firth Makings, the scotch whisky group, celebrated its start on the Unlisted Securities Market. Opening at 227p the shares later slipped to 217p, but by the close were still showing a premium of 22p - quite an achievement for newcomers lately.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for issue name, price, and other details.

High Low Stock table with columns for stock name, high, low, and price change.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British Funds with columns for fund name, price, and performance.

MEDIUMS

Table of Mediums with columns for fund name, price, and performance.

LONGS

Table of Longs with columns for fund name, price, and performance.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Table of Commonwealth and Foreign funds with columns for fund name, price, and performance.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Table of Local Authorities with columns for authority name, price, and performance.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Table of Banks and Discounts with columns for bank name, price, and performance.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Table of Brewers and Distillers with columns for company name, price, and performance.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Table of Commercial and Industrial companies with columns for company name, price, and performance.

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THE TIMES 1000 1983/84. The World's Top Companies. Full statistical details and addresses: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc.

Table of company names and their corresponding stock prices.

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Table of shipping companies and their rates.

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Table of mining companies and their stock prices.

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Table of oil companies and their stock prices.

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Table of property companies and their stock prices.

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Table of plantation companies and their stock prices.

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Table of miscellaneous companies and their stock prices.

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Table of Sterling exchange rates for spot and forward.

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Table of money market rates for various currencies.

Other Markets

Table of other market rates for various currencies.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table of dollar spot rates for various currencies.

Dollar Forward Rates

Table of dollar forward rates for various currencies.

Euro-Spot Deposits

Table of Euro-spot deposits for various currencies.

Gold

Table of gold prices and market information.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts and their stock prices.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'Good the cre' and 'The S'.

APPOINTMENTS

New chiefs at Banking Corporation

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation: Mr William Purvis, at present executive director Banking, will succeed Mr P. E. Hammond as deputy chairman next May. Mr Robert Farrell, at present group staff controller, will join the board, also in May, as an executive director. Mr Hammond will retire at the ordinary yearly general meeting on May 8.

Martin The Newagent: Mr Bill Mitchell will join the board as personnel director from January 16.

Crescent Japan Investment Trust: Mr Ian Macdonald will join the boards of Crescent Japan and New Tokyo Investment Trust on January 1.

The English Association Trust: Mr James Cave will be a director from January 19. He will be in charge of the investment division and will be the managing director of The English Association Investment Management.

Mærsk Company: Mr A. B. Marshall has been appointed vice-chairman.

Wells Fargo Bank: Mr Richard Borda, executive vice-president, has been made head of the Europe/Africa/Middle East division, headquartered in London. He succeeds Mr William Wright.

Save & Prosper Investment Management: Mr Chris Tracey is to be managing director.

Argyll Group: Following the completion of the merger of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products, Mr C. D. Smith will be group financial controller and company secretary and Mr P. A. Frendo group financial controller of Argyll Foods and finance director of Argyll Stores in place of Mr Smith. Mr J. P. Kinch is appointed assistant group company secretary of Argyll Group and company secretary of Argyll Foods and of Amalgamated Distilled Products.

National Bedding Federation: Mr Patrick Quigley has become chief executive.

Singer & Friedlander: Mr B. D. F. Mansfield has been appointed a managing director and Mr W. H. Wright a local director from January 1.

Opposition grows to the President's unwillingness to tackle the huge US deficit

The world waits for Reagan to defuse an economic time bomb



Martin Feldstein (left) and Robert Dole (centre): two vociferous critics of Reagan.

The United States budget deficit is at record levels, and is almost universally regarded by politicians and economists in Europe as the single most important barrier to sustained worldwide economic recovery. Influential critics both inside and outside the Reagan Administration are adding their voices to the criticism of Mr Reagan's economic policy. But 1984 is an election year, with Mr Reagan now having declared himself as a candidate. BAILEY MORRIS in Washington assesses the political climate for this crucial economic debate.

How long is too long to wait in correcting the crippling world effects of a huge United States budget deficit projected at \$200 billion and above for the next five years?

Four months ago, flushed with the success of recovery, no one in Washington was asking this provocative question. But in recent weeks, as concern has grown, the US deficit has come to be regarded as an economic time bomb which must be defused before it explodes.

But when? Can action by Congress and the Reagan Administration wait until after the elections in 1985 as the President has proposed? Increasingly, and in louder voices, a bi-partisan group of officials and economists has said no.

What is wrong with waiting until 1985 to take the politically unpopular step of raising taxes and cutting domestic programmes to reduce the deficit?

In the words of Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's outspoken economics adviser, the problem is this: "The longer you wait, the more difficult it is for the economy to absorb the kinds of changes in government spending and taxes.

Enacting the budget in 1985 rather than now would inevitably mean a slow phase-in of deficit reductions and, therefore, a more unbalanced recovery, Mr Feldstein said. This would lead to less capital formation, bigger increases in the national debt and, eventually, higher interest rates.

It is precisely these fears which fuel the growing opposition among Republicans who

swept to victory during the last presidential elections on the promise of a balanced budget and sustained economic growth. Mr Robert Dole, the powerful chairman of the Senate finance committee, is prominent among them. Despite strong White

'Delaying reducing the budget will lead to a less balanced recovery'

House opposition, he held an unusual set of hearings last week to focus national attention on the threatened budget deficits.

"I regard the deficit as the most important domestic issue facing Congress and I fear there is a real danger of political stalemate in the coming year," Mr Dole said.

elsewhere, there is the perception that President Reagan is playing his political fiddle while the US economy burns. They note that in doing nothing, the President has repeatedly stated his belief that the deficit would go away in time as the recovery continues.

The President's critics fear that the recovery will go up in smoke if action is not taken now to reduce the deficits in 1986 and the years beyond.

They foresee a steady rise in the deficit to \$280 billion by fiscal 1989. Interest payments on this extra debt alone are estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$30 bn - \$100 bn a year.

According to Mr Feldstein: "Just to finance that additional interest would require a tax increase at 1988 levels of 15-20 per cent on top of the personal income taxes which are already in place."

For these outspoken remarks, Mr Feldstein was very nearly

fired a fortnight ago by White House officials who ordered him to keep his views to himself in the months ahead.

But other equally prominent economists have taken up this cause.

Mrs Alice Rivlin, an economist who recently stepped down as director of the Congressional Budget Office, said: "Waiting until 1985 to take action on the deficit entails the risk of having to wait until after the next new recession. By 1985, growth will have slowed substantially and perhaps even turned negative."

Mrs Rivlin's successor, Mr Rudy Penner, a highly respected Republican economist with

strong ties to the Reagan administration, last week said more or less the same thing. According to Mr Penner: "The mathematics are in place for an explosion. The longer we wait the more serious the problem."

He estimated that the cost of financing the national debt will rise by \$56 billion between fiscal years 1982 and 1986, and would exceed substantially the level of standby tax increases proposed by President Reagan in his 1984 budget.

Despite these repeated warnings, both President Reagan and Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Democratic leader of the House, have opposed strongly the interim deficit reduction programmes proposed by both parties for 1984.

Mr Dole has proposed a deficit package which would reduce it by \$150 billion over four years through equal amounts of spending cuts and tax increases.

Earlier, a group of House Democrats tried and failed to build support for a programme of defence and social spending cuts coupled with tax increases for a total reduction of about \$250 billion. Similar deficit reduction efforts will be proposed again when Congress reconvenes in January. But already it is predicted they will not get anywhere.

Mr Dole said: "Without strong leadership from both President Reagan and Mr O'Neill neither those who favour budget cuts nor those who favour tax increases will budge."

The Administration, now hard at work on its 1985 budget, has said it has little interest in an interim compromise package to be enacted in 1984. The result of this stalemate is likely to be a growing loss of confidence in the Administration's commitment to reducing the huge structural deficit predicted up to 1989.

This is expected to have an immediate effect, translating into a slower recovery in the US which would have negative effects in Europe and elsewhere.

According to Mr Feldstein: "If we saw a resolution of the budget situation now, the confidence that would create would make it possible to live with large budget deficits in 1984 and 1985. If we do nothing now, and the confidence is not there, then the actual performance of the economy in 1984 and 1985 is going to be much worse."

BET profits up a sharp 17%

By Philip Robison

British Electric Traction, which takes in house building, newspapers, television and transport, yesterday reported a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. It was the first significant increase for at least three years.

Announcing the figures, Mr Hugh Dundas, BET chairman, said: "In our last annual report I predicted that our pre-tax profits would start to climb away from their plateau."

For the six months to the end of last September group turnover rose 8 per cent to £610m on which pretax profits of £31.7m were earned against profits of £27m last time.

Profits were much in line with the predictions of market analysts and BET's price eased 1p to 26p. The price has risen this year from a low of 16p.

The sharp movement has been inspired by market expectations of a takeover bid since bidding for conglomerates looked like becoming fashion earlier this year.

Some analysts said yesterday that they did not believe BET

would become a takeover target, but the threat has awakened the company from a six-year sleep during which full-year profits fluctuated between £60m and £70m.

This year's opening-half performance implies full-year earnings of a record £80m. BET has raised the interim dividend by 21 per cent to 2.25p.

Most of the increased opening-half profit came from the group's construction interests where pre tax profits rose from £1.5m to £7.3m.

Industrial services managed to push up profits from £7.2m to £7.9m, while BET's transport interests rose 26 per cent to £7.6m. However, in electronics, which includes BET's stake in Rediffusion, pre tax profits fell by more than a fifth to £6.1m. Profits in publishing are unchanged at £1.9m and leisure sector profits increased by 26 per cent.

Last month, BET announced a £300m Wembley development in partnership with a specially formed consortium.

Market listing for McCarthy & Stone

By Jonathan Clare

McCarthy & Stone, the builder of sheltered housing for the elderly, is to get a full stock market listing 18 months after it made its debut on the Unlisted Securities Market. The company is also asking its shareholders for more than £12m to finance a big expansion plan during the current year.

Last year McCarthy, which enjoys a high stock market rating because of the lead it holds in its specialist market, increased its profits from £2.1m to £3.7m.

The better than expected results follow much higher sales than expected of its flats for the elderly. After selling 189 flats in the first half, sales accelerated sharply in the second half to 303 with a similar rate of growth expected this year. The growth is the result of increasing demand for this type of housing and of McCarthy's increased geographical coverage which is now almost nationwide.

The rights issue will reduce the stakes held by the McCarthy and Stone families from 76 per cent to 62 per cent. The cash is likely to be quickly eaten up by developments and gearing could be 90 per cent by the end of the year.

Sales of flats during the first three months of the current year totalled 195 compared with just 85 for the same period last time. The field is becoming more competitive with some of the big house builders like Barrat moving in but McCarthy ready to manage developments on their behalf.

It is also considering building nursing homes for the elderly which would accommodate old people who become too infirm to live in the standard flats.

The dividend has been increased from 2p to 3.5p. The yield is only 1.4 per cent with the shares down 5p at 36p. The terms of the rights issue are one to four at 30p.



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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

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Vertical sidebar containing various advertisements and notices, including 'Trippier backs expansion fund', 'WHY YOUR BUSINESS', 'COASTERS AR', 'AFFILIATE', and 'BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES'.

هكذا فن الأصل

Trippier backs expansion fund

By Jonathan Clare

Mr David Trippier, the minister for small business, has given a powerful personal endorsement to a new community-based fund set up to pump cash into local businesses in North East Lancashire using the Business Expansion Scheme.

Mr Trippier said that the new fund, which is in his own constituency of Rossendale and Darwen, is the first fund to be set up in the spirit of the Chancellor's intentions when he announced the Business Expansion Scheme had so far been monopolised by the big funds. He hoped that by February there would be two or three more locally-based funds set up under the initiative of local enterprise agencies.

Since the Business Expansion Scheme was announced last March, 27 City-based funds have been set up to take advantage of the generous tax concessions it makes available. But many of these schemes have been criticised for the high management charges, the cost to the companies which use their cash and frequent demands for options over the shares and a seat on the board. The new fund, the Valleys of Enterprise Trust Fund (VET), is run by local businessmen who draw no salary for this work. It intends to invest £500,000 in local firms. Investors will pay no initial management charge, although there will be a half-yearly administration charge of one per cent.

The VET scheme has been set up jointly by the Rossendale Enterprise Trust and the Blackburn and District Enterprise Trust.

Mr Trippier also suggested that it might be possible to set up similar schemes in rural areas such as the South West, through the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas (Cosira).

The VET scheme already has £250,000 promised and expects to be fully invested by April when the tax year ends. Individuals are expected to invest between £20,000 and £100,000.

Most of the big funds only consider investments in "big" small firms, unless they are particularly exciting "greenfield" projects which carry high risks and high rewards. They would not normally invest less than £100,000 which cuts off



Les Seaney (left) with Douglas Herbison and Professor John Dawson

Small retailers set for a fairer deal

By Derek Harris

There is good news this week for the small retailer who feels that he gets far less attention from government than the manufacturers who are in the minority among small businesses.

There are moves in the EEC which could go some way to shifting the balance in favour of the shopkeepers with a prospective impact in Britain as much as elsewhere in the Community. It comes as the British Government has indicated in its White Paper on regional policy that more help will now be channelled towards the services sector although how far this will be extended to retailing as such has yet to be clarified.

EEC financial aid programmes, will for the first time cover the service industries, including retailing.

There also appears to be a fair wind, with endorsement by the Council of Ministers still to come, for a code of conduct on small and medium-sized businesses which would lay an obligation on Brussels and national governments to make sure that policies do not actively harm small business operations.

The moves were welcomed as a long overdue shift of policies by Mr Douglas Herbison, secretary general of the Euro-

pean Confederation of Retailing, who is also manager of European operations for the Retail Consortium, trade body for more than 100 British retailers.

He was chairing this week in London the third of five regional conferences organised by the Consortium on problems of small and medium-sized retailers and EEC funded as part of the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. He said: "Clearly the EEC is more aware now of the importance of retailing in the context of helping small businesses and perhaps rather more than is the British Government."

One upshot of the five conferences will be an analysis of small retailers' problems and so far the list looks similar to that drawn up by the National Chamber of Trade (NCT), according to Mr Herbison. Disparity of discounts as between those commanded by big multiple grocery chains and the little man is one. Another is the need for vocational training schemes for the many going into retailing with no grasp of what they are taking on. More exemptions from Value Added Tax are widely called for.

High rents and the local authority rates based on them are one of the biggest problems,

according to Mr Les Seaney, director general of the NCT. He said: "Small businesses are being squeezed out, including the small specialist retailers which offer things the big chains cannot."

He argues there is a social argument for positive discrimination in favour of the smaller outlets, with specific allocations to them in shopping developments with reasonable rent and rate levels.

Numbers of small retailers have been falling for years, with the rate of decline quickening in the seventies, followed by some limited evidence of a slower decline over the past three years, according to John Dawson, professor of distributive studies at the University of Stirling.

The dynamism of the sector comes out in the high annual birthrate of 25,000. But death rates are nearly the highest for any sector. Reversing the decline in small retailing businesses depends more on altered attitudes among those running the businesses than on direct Government policy, he suggests. But he adds: "Government initiatives could well provide the tonic to speed recovery."

Why small businesses don't grow into big businesses

First priority for the Small Business Research Trust, which was formally launched this week with backing among others from the Bank of England, will be investigating the size, shape and performance of the small business sector, Derek Harris writes.

Small businesses or to allow evaluation of the effectiveness of measures that are intended to revitalise the sector," says Bert Nicholson, the Trust's research secretary. The Trust has been getting into its stride since March with backing also from Bass, National Westminster Bank, J. Sainsbury, Shell UK and Tru-

sting is £150,000 and it is already supporting a pilot survey in Scotland.

The Trust earned a stamp of approval from Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, when he made the formal launch this week; the research should help the Government as well as business

in its first strategy paper the Trust this week suggested that the major problem to be tackled will probably be why Britain has relatively few small businesses, and why a low proportion of them grow.

Contact: Small Business Research Trust, 2 Dean Court, Westminster, London.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Pressure to push up loan limit

Changes in the small firms loans guarantee scheme, including widening its scope more to medium-sized enterprises, are being called for by the Small Business Bureau, writes Derek Harris.

Michael Grylls, the Bureau chairman, who is Tory MP for Surrey North West, is pressing the case in the House of Commons, urging that the upper loan limit under the scheme should go from £75,000 to £250,000.

"This would allow medium-sized businesses with their greater capital needs to benefit from the scheme with the bonus that such companies because of their greater size would tend to generate more jobs than a smaller business," said Mr Grylls.

He is also urging that the 3 per cent premium charged on loans should be abolished. Under the scheme 80 per cent of a loan advanced by a

bank is guaranteed by the Government. The loan guarantee scheme is running on an experimental basis at present and a review is going on to decide its future beyond next May. The number of guarantees given under the scheme since June 1981 is now around 13,000 with a total of £400m advanced.

British Institute of Management has put together an easy-to-understand guide to setting up in business. The approach is a nuts-and-bolts one covering all the key considerations from finance sources and marketing, accounting systems and taxation. It explains how to put together a business plan.

The guide comes as a pack with additional guidelines on where to get help and advice, with a series of checklists for detailed aspects of a new business. It costs £5.50 including postage.



MR FRIDAY

Telling me I was ineligible for a MISC training course is the only favour the government has ever done for me.

Contact: Gillian Collingridge, British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2B 5PT; telephone (01) 405 3456.

comprehensive service being offered to members on export sales and marketing. A buyer service is being specially strengthened.

Contact: Clothing Export Council, Academy House, 28-28 Sackville Street, London W1X 2QT; telephone (01) 434 1881.

A successful 18-month pilot scheme in Huddersfield has prompted Arrhage & Norton, one of the top 20 chartered accountants by fee income, to start extending a low-price "nursery" scheme for giving accountancy help to new small businesses. The Leeds-based accountants, with a nationwide network of offices, are extending the scheme to other outlets in the North East at Bradford, Dewsbury, Halifax, and Leeds. A further extension to other outlets in the North West, Scotland, the Midlands and the South, is likely in the near future.

Until a business is established, when it reaches the stage of appointing a full-time accountant, all rates charged are at a discount. First consultations, often involving a day including visits, are free. The aim initially is to create a book-keeping system providing key management information tailored to the individual business.

The bank manager with a foot in the door

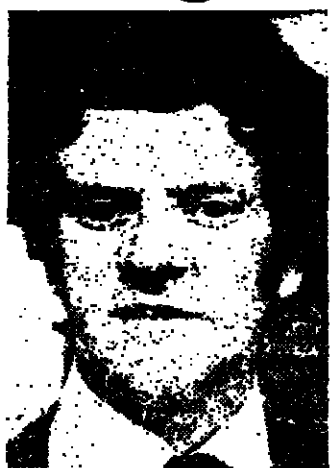
By Wayne Lintott

The problems of small businesses seeking to expand are legion but a straw poll of companies in the Unlisted Securities Market (USM) and merchant banks and venture capital advisers shows that the biggest cause of insolvency is under-capitalization at the time of the first phase of major expansion.

The other big problem is poor marketing research coupled with a 100-per cent dependency on a local clearing bank. CPU Computers is a respected company within the USM market, having grown from a black bank account over the last ten years. Its principal business is the distribution of computer components but it has recently begun manufacturing its own business computer.

In the last financial year turnover reached £20m and year-on-year profits rose 56 per cent to £1.35m. Some time over the next financial year the company intends seeking a full stock market listing.

Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, is joint chairman and co-founder, and the thought of reflecting back



Tom Fitzpatrick: the way to find the money

over his initial problems causes a wry smile. "In year one we had trouble getting any form of bank support at all. We were offered overdraft facilities of £3,000 rising to £5,000 if we both put our houses up as security. I can't repeat our reply to a family newspaper."

So Mr Fitzpatrick took the opposite tack. "Our solution was to write out a business plan showing our ideas, where we wanted to go, how much it would cost and our overdraft need of £15,000. Then we just walked round every clearing bank branch in Woking, Surrey, until we found NatWest manager prepared to support us. In the end we didn't use it, but it gave the necessary credit references for our suppliers. Once we had that and coupled it

Since then the company has made the choice not to expand meteorically with the market. He offers two pieces of advice. The first: don't grow on borrowed money. The second: build up the staff and infrastructure on money already earned and don't buy in staff on what you might achieve.

"Everyone goes on about cash flow management. But the reality is that that is the only way to do it successfully. Once you are indebted to the local bank manager, the internal pressures are enormous. The man never has his foot out of the door," he said.

Much the same problem faces James Hay Pension Trustees. They run a private company whose shares are currently being placed by stockbrokers Scripseur, Kemp-Gee to its private clients.

Since the Government recently allowed self-administered company pension funds to invest 50 per cent in the business, plant and offices, demand has really rocketed.

Mr John Bevan, the chairman, says his company's problem was not so much money as the internal infrastructure to support the expansion. "After we moved up to London (from Cardiff) we found ourselves getting involved in all kinds of projects for our clients. BES schemes, joint-developments and the like until one day we discovered we just weren't meeting our targets for new business."

building up the administrative structure to support the expansion. Once again from money earned, not money borrowed. Of the forms of financing available to the company, James Hay chose equity rather than bank loans. Having done that, they have similarly prepared a three-year plan that is flexible enough to allow for delays on receivables.

"You know what the minimum receivables are going to be and, no matter what you hope for, you have to work on that figure and no other," Mr Bevan said.

Mr Charles Duff, a director at Venture Founders, whose £12m fund for new start-ups and pure greenfield projects was recently launched, stressed the importance of a business plan and defining a narrow market in which to operate.

His company has a client that entered into a dramatic expansion and rapidly became insolvent. The rescue money amounted to £2m. Luckily, that company had Venture behind it and the money was raised from City institutions with the necessary management back-up hired in.

But that is a rare occurrence. All too often a company will be able to raise the capital to get off the ground only to find that the second tranche of much needed cash is either difficult to get or comes with too many strings.

Next Week looks at the dos and don'ts of presenting a business plan.

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